

FOR REFERENCE

Do Not Take From This Room

SHERBORN TOWN LIBRARY

Extracts from the Regulations

Art. VI—Every resident in Town over the age of fourteen years shall be entitled to all the privileges, benefits, and uses of the Library, and shall be allowed to take therefrom one book at a time; provided, that such person shall strictly comply with the Regulations.

Art. VII—If any book shall be lost or materially injured or withheld four weeks after notice from the Librarian to return the same, the person to whom it is charged shall either pay the appraised value thereof, or replace it by a new volume or set (if it belongs to a set) of the same or of a later edition, and of equal value, and shall also pay all fines and costs that may have accrued on said book.

The Library shall be open on
Monday from 2:30 until 5 P. M.
Wednesday from 2:30 until 9 P.M.
Saturday from 3:00 until 9 P. M.

SHERBORN LIBRARY



3 8106 96068 429 9

Copy 1

3
3726-1



Scène à Paris. Scène à Paris.

10689

SHERBORN

1674 *PAST and PRESENT* 1924



974.44

Sh

Published by the

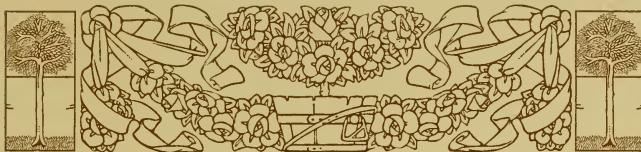
SHERBORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHERBORN, MASSACHUSETTS

1924

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
“THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN SHEARBORNE”	
THE FIRST PARISH— <i>C. Lillis Whitney</i>	5
THE PILGRIM CHURCH, <i>Deborah P. D. Coolidge</i>	11
THE SCHOOLS OF SHERBORN, <i>J. Francis Allison</i>	13
SHERBORN SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION, <i>Charles H. Dowse</i>	22
SHERBORN IN THE CIVIL WAR, <i>Albert H. Blanchard</i>	27
SHERBORN MEN IN THE WORLD WAR	30
THE TOWN LIBRARY, <i>Francis Bardwell and Martha F. Collins</i>	31
OLD HOUSES OF SHERBORN	35
THE EMIGRATION TO DUBLIN, <i>Mabel S. Bardwell and J. Francis Allison</i>	42
SHERBORN IN THE FORTIES, <i>Rowena D. Butler</i>	45
SHERBORN MEMORIES, <i>Joseph Dowse</i>	53
THE COUNTRY CHOIR, <i>Fred W. Cushing</i>	57
SHERBORN BANDS, <i>Martha D. Leland and Jonathan Eames</i>	58
EARLY INDUSTRIES	
SHOEMAKING, <i>Sara L. Sparhawk</i>	61
WILLOW INDUSTRY, <i>Martha A. Whitney</i>	62
BRAIDING WHIPS, <i>Alice M. Dowse</i>	63
GUN-MAKING, <i>Amy L. Fleming</i>	64
CIDER-MAKING, <i>C. Arthur Dowse</i>	65
EXTRACTS FROM TOWN AND COURT RECORDS	66



FOREWORD

The Sherborn Historical Society, deeming it to be fitting that on the occasion of the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town some effort be made to keep alive the memory of past events, at a special meeting of the society appointed a committee to prepare a historical booklet to be printed and made ready for distribution at the time of celebration of that anniversary.

This committee consisted of Martha D. Leland, Cora E. Leland, Elizabeth D. Coolidge, Charles H. Dowse, Walter E. Blanchard and J. Francis Allison.

In the preparation of the booklet we have enlisted the aid of members and friends of the organization, and have made use to a considerable extent of papers prepared and read before the society, as well as of much new material. In submitting it to the public, we do so with the full realization that much of interest and even of importance must of necessity be omitted, but we cherish the hope that this little booklet may serve to awaken interest and pride in the doings of the past, and inspire those now living to work for the greater glory of the town in years to come.



UNITARIAN CHURCH

“THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN SHEARBORNE”
THE FIRST PARISH

N the early New England settlements, the meeting-house was the center of the community life. The voters gathered there for town meeting as well as the congregation for worship. So in any review of the life of Sherborn, the history of its church naturally comes first.

The first settlers in Sherborn—Wood, Pitcher, Holbrook, Layland, and others—attended church at the older settlement of Medfield; for twenty-five years Sherborn births and deaths were recorded in the Medfield records. I would like to tell you about these early settlers,—men of strong, determined characters, in the prime of life, who settled “in the wilderness beyond Meadfield.” Samuel Smith said, “These early settlers laid the foundations of their homes in the fear of God, and reared the walls in terror of the Indians.”

In 1662 Daniel Morse, Nicholas Wood, Henry Layland, Thomas Holbrook, Benjamin Bullard, Thomas Bass, John Hill, William Briggs, George Fairbanks, Samuel Bass, Thomas Breck, George Speer, Robert Kendall and Benjamin Alley petitioned the General Court for “liberty to be a towne by ourselves.” As they had with great difficulty attended upon “the means of grace at Medfield” (first in respect to distance, secondly by reason of great danger in crossing the river) they thought it “more for the honor of God and

the future good and benefit of ourselves and posterity, that we should endeavor the setting up of the worship and ordinances of God among ourselves." There were then twenty voters and a hundred inhabitants.

The General Court did not approve this petition. Another was sent in 1674, signed by several of the same petitioners or their sons: "as amongst other difficulties we have not found it our least to goe to meeting on the Lord's Day unto Medfield." This petition was granted, but King Philip's War broke out shortly, and suspended all action relative to founding a town. Medfield was burned by the Indians, and some of its citizens killed.

On March 9, 1676, at a meeting of the inhabitants of Sherborn, it was voted to build a meeting-house on top of the hill twenty rods northeast of the new South burying-ground. Sherborn then included the present territory of Holliston, Ashland, parts of Mendon, Framingham, and Natick; and the people who lived in what is now Framingham objected to the choice of a location, preferring it on the hill near Edward's Plain. The General Court finally appointed three men to help them settle the question, and it was at last voted to build the church at the head of Edward's Plain, and set apart land, twenty rods square, for the church and common. Every citizen was taxed so much per poll. Up to this time services of public worship had been held at the home of Capt. Joseph Morse (where Mr. Joseph Walter Barber lived), he receiving remuneration from the town.

I do not find much about the building of this first meeting-house, except a bill for £50 for framing the meeting-house and providing doors, windows, etc., and one of £3 for boards and laying the floor. In 1705, thirty years later, £20 was granted "to repair this church and better furnish it." And in 1715 a petition was presented to the town, on the part of several men, "for the liberty to make at their own cost a decent and convenient seat for them and their wives, behind the women's seats in the body of the meeting-house, with liberty of a window and other conveniences proper for such a seat." Another similar petition asked for the right to build a seat "behind the men's seats."

Judge Sewall records in his diary, under date of March 26, 1685: "Went to the gathering of the Church in Sherborne, and ordaining of Mr. Daniel Gookin their Pastor. But six brethren, and three of the name of Mors." The minister was furnished with a home and a small piece of land; his salary was £40 a year, "one-half to be in country produce."

The earliest existing records of the church are in a small book kept by the deacons to set down money raised for charitable uses, and the expenses of the communion service. Thus Obadiah Morse, the first deacon, sets down in 1685 the shillings spent "to provide for the Lord's table for the first sacrament of the Lord's Supper in Shearborne"; and the money collected to buy "a flagon, two cupps, and a tablecloth," also "a bason for the water of baptism." Other pages show contributions "for the poor French then at Boston," and for

the redeeming of captives from one and another town, who were held by the Indians.

Rev. Daniel Gookin continued to be the minister of Sherborn, preaching also to the Indians at Natick, until 1717. In 1707, May 29, it was voted that "each person in town, according to the polls he was rated for, should cut and carry to the house of Mr. Gookin one-half cord of wood." Failing to do this, he should pay a fine of two shillings per poll.

In 1711 an assistant, Rev. Daniel Baker, was called for Mr. Gookin, who resigned ten pounds of his country produce toward his pay, while the town paid £50. Every citizen was taxed by the assessors his proportionate part of the sum; failing to pay, he might be put in jail.

After the death of Mr. Gookin, Mr. Baker became pastor. He says, "I do signify to you my resolution to come and abide with you in Gospel Service, so long as you shall afford me Gospel encouragement." He must have been successful in receiving the encouragement he asked for, as the church voted in 1721 to build a larger meeting-house.

To accommodate the citizens of the west part of the town, it was proposed to "build it on a hill seventy or six score rods easterly from Dirty Meadow bridge." In 1723, March 6, "voted to build a church to accommodate the whole town on the spot described above and marked by a heap of stones." But in November of the same year the people concluded that the town was of such form that one meeting-house could not be built to accommodate all; and that portion west of Dopping Brook and Bogistow Brook was soon set apart, forming the town of Holliston.

It was then voted "to build a new church near the old building, to be forty feet long and thirty-two feet wide, and twenty feet post, £160 to be levied on poll tax payers." The people living in the west part of the town wanted their share of the £160 toward building their new church, and for the sake of future peace and good neighborhood it was granted them. Sept., 1725, £140 was granted "to finish the meeting-house." The space around the sides of the building was used for square pews, built at the expense of the owners.

Deacon Hopestill Leland, Deacon Benoni Learned, and William Greenwood were a committee "to seat the meeting-house,"—which was done according to the money paid by each citizen. There was no arrangement for heating this building; people carried their foot-stoves. Leave was now given for people "to build stables or noon-houses on the sides of the meeting-house common, for convenience on the Lord's Day."

The tything-man was quite an important officer in the early history of the church. He not only kept an oversight of the order in church, but I find there were two or three men appointed to look after the behavior of families in different sections of the town. One gentleman in town remembers that when a boy he was lifted by his collar and put out of the church for laughing in

service time. Again we find one man disciplined for selling pork that was not up to standard.

Rev. Daniel Baker preached until 1731. The next minister was Rev. Samuel Porter, who held the position until 1758. His home (as also that of Mr. Baker and Mr. Locke) was the estate opposite the church; he is said to have originated the Porter apple on his farm.

These three "Sterling Ministers of the Town,"—Gookin, Baker, and Porter,—were all distinguished for their learning, their piety and good judgment. Their bodies were all buried in the Central Cemetery. In 1857 Mr. Calvin Sanger had their remains removed to Pine Hill Cemetery and erected a suitable monument to their memory.

Rev. Samuel Locke, who had married Mr. Porter's daughter, was the next minister, ordained in 1759. It is worth while to notice in passing the procedure in calling a minister in those days. The church members met first and decided whom they would invite to be their pastor; then they appointed a committee to report to the town, and the town fixed the salary. In 1770 Mr. Locke was elected president of Harvard College, and resigned his pastorate. He filled this high office but a few years, however, and, returning to Sherborn, lived on the place which his wife had inherited, and kept a fitting-school for boys. At his death, his body also was placed in the Central burying-ground, but was afterward removed to Pine Hill by the authorities of Harvard College, who placed a block of granite, appropriately inscribed, over his grave.

In 1769 the second meeting-house was cut in two and the west end moved forward, so that the length might be increased twenty feet. This church had a porch at each end and a gallery at one end. The sum of £100 was granted to make these changes.

Rev. Elijah Brown was the next minister, serving through the Revolutionary period. His pastorate of fifty-four years is the longest in the history of this parish.

In 1793 a new bell was given by subscribers, with the proviso that it be "hung handsomely, and rung as usual in towns." Beside its use in calling to church, it was to be rung daily at noon; and when a death occurred in town the bell tolled the age of the person, either at sunset or sunrise. This bell weighed 683 pounds, and cost £92.

The support of a singing school was often the object of a parish appropriation in earlier days; sometimes the phrase is "for the encouragement of sacred music." In the year 1826 \$75 was appropriated for this purpose, although the whole budget for the year was but \$650.

Shearashub Bourne Townsend, a graduate of Brown University, was the next minister. He was ordained in 1816, but resigned in 1828, on account of ill health. Before this, when a minister was ordained he expected to hold the position for life, as all the former ministers had done except Mr. Locke; if a minister became too feeble to preach, an assistant had been hired. In

resigning Mr. Townsend said, "The people will not be insensible that I voluntarily remit what, if I live, I might long and legally retain." He gave up the salary, but wished to retain the name of pastor. It was voted "that Rev. Mr. Townsend and a committee from the church hire an assistant." Mr. Townsend went to the South, hoping to regain his health, but died there in 1830; and Rev. Amos Clark, who had been serving as colleague, became the minister.

A word as to the church records. From the incorporation of the town in 1674 to 1798, the town and parish records were kept together. From 1798 to 1809 the town and parish records were separated, but kept in one book. From 1809 to 1830, the parish records were kept in a separate book. The custom of the town from 1798 to 1830 was to issue two warrants, one appertaining to town affairs and one to parish affairs. The two warned the inhabitants to assemble at different hours on the same day. Since 1830 the two parishes have managed their own parochial affairs, having nothing to do with the town. The records kept by the ministers—of births, marriages, votes of the church, etc.—begin only with Rev. Samuel Porter's ministry in 1734, but continue from that to the present time.

The parish records of 1826 show the beginning of a movement for a new meeting-house, but it was not until 1830 that a decisive vote was secured, and \$4,000 was appropriated for the purpose. Silas Stone, Alpheus Clark, Micah Leland, Joseph Sanger and Elisha Barber were made a building committee. Another committee was chosen "to locate the meeting-house, and clear the Common of encumbrances." One curious matter which this committee was directed to discuss with the Second Parish was "the division of the materials of the town Pound,"—which had apparently been on the Common.

Bills which have been preserved show prices which can hardly be believed today: Silas Stone charges the parish \$6 for making three journeys to Boston; and "for my man and oxen, carting large stones," the charge is 91 $\frac{1}{3}$ cents per day for the man, and 75 cents for the oxen. Elisha Barber charges for "two days to Boston to examine meeting-houses, \$2.00; horse to Boston, \$1.00"; also "boarding mason four days, \$1.00."

The contractor was Charles Farrar, as appears by his receipts for money paid him; but where his home was is not stated.

On August 18 and 19, 1830, the society "raised" the present meeting-house. People came from all the towns in the vicinity to the raising; it is said that booths were erected on the Common for the sale of food. The church was completed within the year, and dedicated December 29.

Meanwhile a petition had been signed by a large number of the church members, for the purpose of forming a second religious society in the town. The religious views of these persons did not coincide with those of Mr. Clark, and they considered it their duty to withdraw. In Nov., 1830, the church of the Second Parish was dedicated.

Rev. Amos Clark preached only eleven years, his health not being equal to the work. He also fitted boys for college. Then came Rev. Richard C. Stone, who remained but six years. He was of a dictatorial habit, and his pastorate was stormy, filled with contentions which now we can hardly understand. When the parish asked for his resignation, he with his followers started another religious society, which built the "Chapel" at one side of the Common, near the Leland monument, and affiliated itself with the Methodist denomination. Rev. John Fleming of Boston was his successor at the Chapel, then the two societies again united, and Mr. Fleming ministered to the reunited church from 1850 to 1853.

Rev. Theodore H. Dorr preached from 1854 to 1863, and as the Civil War came on he was actively interested in the work which the church did in furnishing garments, etc., for the Sanitary Commission,—the Red Cross of those days.

In February, 1854, the church organ was first used. This the ladies of the church helped to pay for. It was placed in the gallery, but in 1888 was moved to the floor. (The fine organ now in use was installed in 1921, many old friends of the church helping by liberal subscriptions).

The Sunday School Association was formed in Mr. Dorr's ministry, and a Sunday School library established. A small Parish Library had been gathered in Mr. Clark's day.

When Rev. William Brown came to the church in 1863, he arranged to write only one new sermon a week; thus began the plan of only one service on Sunday. He remained until 1872.

Our next minister was Rev. Eugene De Normandie. Mrs. De Normandie was an energetic church worker, and various societies of young people came into being.

In 1873 the Parish bought the building now called Unity Hall. It served as a parsonage in Mr. De Normandie's time, and was afterward remodeled for use as a parish house.

In 1893 the church joined with the church at South Natick in engaging Rev. Leverett R. Daniels, the Sherborn services being held in the afternoon. Though living in South Natick, Mr. Daniels took a great interest in the young people, and in all the activities of the church. He instituted vesper services, and grove services in the summer.

Our genial friend Rev. Isaac F. Porter came in 1903, making his home in town, and thus it was possible to have a morning service again. In many ways we felt his kindly influence, and he and his good wife and family have a firm place in our hearts. After ten years he ceased his active ministry, but remained pastor emeritus until his death in 1923.

Rev. Alfred E. Mullett, Rev. Mr. Lamb, and Rev. William I. Nichols should not be forgotten, though each had a short pastorate. At present the

church is again affiliated with South Natick, with Rev. William D. Wilkie as minister.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society had an honorable record of many years of good works, before it changed its name and became the Sherborn Branch of the Alliance. In 1901 it held its fiftieth annual fair, and the series still continues.

This church has always stood for the most liberal Christianity of its time.



PILGRIM CHURCH

THE history of the church has been given from 1685 until 1830, when the majority of the church members separated from the parish. After the separation, the business and religious services of those who left were held in a hall owned by Joseph Sanger.

At the time of the separation the Rev. Shearjashub Townsend was pastor of the church but absent on account of ill health. It is a singular fact that both the old parish and the new invited him to preach.

A church building was erected and dedicated November 4, 1830; at the same time the Rev. Samuel Lee was selected. He remained until the church was established and then went to Ipswich, N. H.

Rev. Daniel Talcott Smith was the third pastor and he went from here to Bangor Theological Seminary.

Rev. Edmund Dowse was settled October 10, 1838, and remained for sixty-seven years. He was a native of Sherborn, known to all the people and continued to hold their love and respect during his whole pastorate. He was sixty-five years chairman of the School Committee; two years in the Massachusetts Senate and twenty-five years chaplain of the same Senate. The story of his life and that of the church is given in pamphlets issued at the time of the celebrations of the twenty-fifth, fortieth, fiftieth and sixtieth anniversaries of his settlement.

The clergymen succeeding Dr. Dowse are: Rev. C. D. Littlejohn, Rev. C. B. Blanchard, Rev. Amasa Fay, Rev. Henry Bray, Rev. C. Leonard Holton and at the present time Rev. Albert B. Reynolds.

The church building has just been renovated and painted and everything is in a prosperous condition.

SCHOOLS

UNE 4, 1694—"Edward West chose scholmaster for Sherborne by the town."

Thus briefly is chronicled in the records of the town, twenty years after its incorporation, the beginning of its public school system.

Before this time the number of children of school age in town was undoubtedly small, and the settlers too busy clearing their land, building houses and barns, and struggling to secure enough food to keep soul and body together, to think very much about the education of their children. This was a matter which appears to have been left entirely to the parents. The cost of the schools at this time was not borne by the town, but those who sent their children to school paid the teacher themselves.

Yet it is evident that the early settlers were looking forward to the time when there should be a public school system, for on the 16th of April, 1679, four years after the incorporation of the town, Articles of Agreement were drawn up between Daniel Morse, Sr., Thomas Eames, Henry Lealand and Obediah Morse of Sherborn, and Waban, Pimbow, Thomas Tray, John Awonsamage, Sr., Peter Ephraim and Daniel Takawompait of Natick, by which an exchange of land was made, and among other items of compensation we find the following:

"Also we agree & consent that in the Lands we are to have of Natick there be a Lot of Fifty Acres sett out where the Commissioners of the Colonies, Major Gookin and Mr. Elliott, and the Indian Rulers shall choose within that Tract of Land, to be appropriated forever to the use of a free School for teaching the English and Indian Children there, the English Tongue & other Sciences."

This exchange of lands was duly ratified and allowed by the General Court.

• In 1702 we find the following entry in the records: "William Rider, junr was chosen Schoolemaster for the year ensuing, and ym yt send their children to schoole to agree with him and pay him."

Up to the year 1709 the school had been kept but a short time each year, but in this year the town voted to have it kept for three months, and at three parts of the town, viz., The Plain, South End, and Dirty Meadow, probably one month in each place, and levied a tax of eight pounds to pay for maintaining it, and from this time on we find the town assuming the cost of the schools, though they were still kept at private houses.

The salary of the teacher would not seem large at the present time, for on January 14, 1711-12, we find the entry: "Voted yt ye sum of six pounds four shillings and six pence be speedily levied for the paying of the Schoolmaster, Mr. Abraham Cusan, Junr as ye Selectmen have agreed with Him, to wit, ye sum of five pounds Twelve shillings and Six pence for nine weeks service in

keeping school this present year, as also 12 s. for providing firewood for the school."

Mr. Cuzzans taught the school for several years, and a receipt for salary was copied upon the records of the town.

"Received August the 18th 1712, of Deacon Learned, Treasurer of Sherborn, the full sum of five pounds Twelve Shillings and Sixpence for Schooling, which is in full of all accompts from the beginning of the world to this Day. I say Received by me. Abraham Cuzzanz."

On December 25, 1719, it was voted that school should be kept in five parts of the town, Chestnut Brook and Bald Hill being added to the list of places previously established.

The first public schoolhouse was voted by the town at a meeting held on December 29, 1727: "Then at said meting there was a vote passed to Build a Schoolhouse and to set it on the Meetinghouse common on the Southerly side of the Meetinghouse."

"Also there was voted that the Dementions of the Schoolhouse shall be 18 foot wide and 20 foot long."

On April 16, 1728, a committee was chosen to sell the school land toward defraying the cost of building and finishing the school house. The school land referred to was no doubt the fifty acres set aside for school purposes when the exchange of territory was made with Natick. A purchaser was found in Jonathan Russell, who agreed to pay for the land fifty-eight pounds in good bills of credit, but not being able to meet his obligation within the time allowed, he relinquished his claim, and Obadiah Morse took about thirty acres for forty pounds, and Benoni Learned the remainder for ten pounds. With the aid of this money the schoolhouse was completed, and continued in use until 1770, when it was sold with its contents to Captain Sanger for £5 15s.

Until 1761 the schools were kept during the winter, and by a man teacher, but at this time the town voted "to grant Something more for the Seport of a woman School, to teach small children," and four pounds was accordingly granted.

By this time the town had begun to feel the need of public schoolhouses, and in 1762 a committee was chosen to investigate and report. No action in the matter appears to have been taken until 1765, when "A vote was asked ye Town whether they would grant any money this meeting to Procure or Build School Houses in the Several parts of ye Town, and it Passed in the Negitive."

Up to this time the Sherborn schools had taught chiefly "Reading, Writing and Cyphering," but the General Court had prescribed that higher branches should also be taught, and on October 17, 1767, a tax of nine pounds was granted, "To be assessed on Polls and Estates to pay ye fine and Cost of a Presentment for not having a Gramer School" in Sherborn. Evidently the town profited by this experience, for in the following year we find this record:

"Granted to Esqr. Perry 6s & to Jos. Twitchell 18s for the cost and charge they ware at in Giting a fine granted by sessions to the town to be spent in a Gramer School in Sherborn."

If teachers' salaries were low, the cost of board was correspondingly so, for on February 15, 1768, the Treasurer was ordered "To pay Mr. Thomas Prentice, ye School Master and the several Persons that Borded him at the Several Parts of the Town their proportion of £18—the School-master to Have after the Rate of £26 13s 6d a year, and those that Borded him 4s per week."

Little of note concerning the schools appears upon the records of the town for many years. Schoolhouses had evidently been built by the communities where the several schools were kept, and roughly defined school districts formed, in which schools were kept under the charge of a Prudential Committee chosen by the district. In 1794, however, a committee of five was chosen to consider the advisability of accepting an offer from the districts to turn over the schoolhouses to the town on the condition that the town repair them and keep them in condition for use. Upon report of the committee the offer was duly accepted, though the method of conducting the schools continued as before. No definite bounds for the districts were established until 1828, when a committee was chosen for that purpose, and their report accepted.

In 1824 there was a desire on the part of some of the inhabitants to build a town house in which an academy might be established, but the town not only voted not to erect such a building, but refused to allow any individuals to put up such a building on town land. It was, therefore, opened on August 9, 1824, in the hall over Col. Sanger's store. The school was started by subscription, and later the proprietors, about thirty in number, purchased land and erected a building twenty-six feet square and two stories high. The cost was paid by issuing fifty-six shares of stock at the par value of twenty dollars. The building was afterwards moved and used as a cider mill.

On March 3, 1828, there was chosen the first school committee for the town. This committee consisted of seven members, having, however, very little authority over the schools, but like the taking over of the schoolhouses by the town, it marked another step toward the present town system of control. No report of the committee appears until 1839, when a brief statement concerning the condition of the schools is spread upon the records of the town meeting at which it was presented.

The first printed report of the school committee appeared in 1852, eight pages in length, and covering the work of the schools for the school year of 1851-52. It was presented in conformity with a recently enacted law which required the committee to read their report in town meeting in February, March or April, or to cause it to be printed and distributed for the use of the inhabitants. The report is signed by Edmund Dowse, Jeremiah Butler and Joseph Dowse, Jr.

This report shows seven schools in operation, in districts numbered from

1 to 7. In the general remarks the committee urge the importance of having all the teachers "present at the time appointed for examination, and the great impropriety of presenting teachers on the very day and morning when they are expected to enter upon their duties." "Some of the older teachers," says the report, "would have been more prompt, and would doubtless have been better prepared to enter upon their work, if they had refreshed their minds by a review of those things with which they had once been familiar." "Some of the younger teachers evidently had not been sufficiently drilled in the branches which are taught in our common schools." The Normal Schools are commended in that they "make it their business to qualify their pupils for teachers, and they are generally found very thorough in the common English branches." Comments are made very frankly upon the good and the bad features of the teacher's work in each district.

At this time it was customary to employ a woman teacher for the summer term, and a man for the winter, as it was doubtless the custom for the larger boys to attend school during the winter only, and it was quite the exception for a woman to be employed to teach the winter term.

In District No. 3 a very familiar name appears as the teacher for the summer term, it being that of Miss Sallie A. Whitney. She had already taught here with good success for one or two seasons, and her work here now and for many years thereafter is highly commended. Another familiar name appears for the winter term in District No. 6—Mr. William W. Leland. He taught in Sherborn for many years, and comments upon his work are decidedly favorable.

The whole number of scholars for the summer was 192, and for the winter, 247. The length of term varied in the different districts, but averaged slightly more than three months. The average wages of men teachers were \$28.55 per month, and of women teachers \$13.02 per month. There were thirty-three scholars under five years of age, and forty-nine over fifteen. The total amount appropriated for schools was \$1,200, about the salary of a single woman teacher today.

The money appropriated was distributed at this time among the several districts according to the valuation of the districts, a method which was regarded by the committee as manifestly unfair, since the wealthier districts were enabled to employ better teachers and have longer terms, and in 1855 the committee recommended that one-third be distributed equally, one-third according to the number of scholars, and one-third according to valuation, this recommendation being adopted by the town in 1855.

The law authorizing the establishment of school districts was enacted in 1789, but had resulted in so many schools that the number of scholars often did not exceed five in summer, as was the case in the Farm school at this time. Two secretaries of the State Board of Education, Horace Mann and Dr. Sears, had recommended that the district system be abolished and the town system established, and sixty towns of the state had already taken such action. The

committee believed that this change would be of advantage to Sherborn, but no action was taken at this time.

Among other matters of interest in the report of 1855, mention is made of difficulties which arose in District No. 3 over the reading of the Bible, complaint having reached the town committee that the teacher, Mr. Tarr, did not follow the usual custom of reading from it at the opening of school. When asked to do so by the committee he aroused much feeling on the part of pupils and parents by reading from "another version."

The town at its annual meeting in 1855 voted to establish a high school for four months, and appropriated for its support the sum of \$250 to be taken from the grant for schools. At a subsequent meeting held on April 2nd of the same year the town voted not to reconsider this action; but at a later meeting held May 7th, they voted to dismiss an article to see if the town would grant money for the support of a high school.

The committee of one from each school district to confer with the town committee, as voted in the original motion, was never selected, and in view of this failure and the fact that the appropriation of \$1,200 was not more than was needed for the districts, the school committee declined to establish the high school, although themselves favoring such a school.

As a result, a private high school of fifty-seven pupils was conducted from September 3rd to November 16th by a Harvard graduate whose name is not mentioned. Tuition of four dollars per pupil was charged. The school committee in its report for that year recommended a separate appropriation of \$300 for a high school, but the town failed to act favorably upon this recommendation.

Nothing of note appears in the reports for the next two years. In 1858 a new two-story building was erected in District No. 1, containing two rooms. In District No. 2 many pupils were reported absent because of the heat and the berrying season and the committee recommended that all schools have a vacation during August. The experiment of an evening school in the town hall was tried during the winter, but evidently was not a success, as only three sessions were held.

Although the efforts to establish a high school at public expense had been a failure, nevertheless the desire for such a school found realization as the result of a gift of \$5,000 made to the town by the executors of the estate of Thomas Dowse, son of Eleazer Dowse, a leather dresser, who came to Sherborn from Charlestown shortly after the fire which destroyed a large part of that town in 1775.

By the conditions of the gift the income of this fund, which at that time amounted to \$400, must be expended annually for a high school. There being no suitable place for conducting the school, the town voted to postpone the opening of it till the following year, which was done with the approval of the executors, and in the meantime expended the principal in fitting up a school-

room in the town hall, binding itself to the payment of the income for the support of the school. This arrangement accounts for the payment to the school department each year of \$400, known as the Dowse School Fund, in addition to the regular school appropriation.

According to the report of the committee a "spacious and elegant school-room" was finished and furnished in the town hall, and the school opened in the spring for a term of eleven weeks under the guidance of Mr. F. A. Baker of Dedham, a teacher for several years in the district schools of the town during the winter terms. Sixty pupils were in attendance, filling all the seats. Thus the Dowse High School became the first public high school in Sherborn. It may be of interest that Mr. Baker received forty dollars a month for his services, which sum, however, did not include the cost of board.

The amount received from the Massachusetts School Fund this year was \$47.04. By way of contrast, the amount received from the State for schools in 1923 was \$5,144.07.

We frequently hear comments on the bad behavior and profanity of the boys of today. It is interesting to note that the boys of years ago were not greatly different, the school report of 1859-60 paying much attention to the insubordination and profanity of some of the pupils, and urging the need of better home training.

Irregular attendance was likewise one of the faults of the past, and the committee recommended the next year that a bounty of from ten to twenty dollars be paid to the district having the best attendance.

The school report for 1866-67 urged the abolition of the district system and the establishment of the town system, which would permit the town to receive the maximum amount of state aid, the Legislature having enacted a law that towns having the town system should receive a special grant of \$75. The town, however, refused to make the change, and the district system remained in effect till abolished by law in 1869. With the abolition of the districts the numbers by which the several districts had been known disappeared, and the schools became known respectively as the Center, Plain, West, South, North, Southwest and Farm Schools.

The school report for 1869-70 makes a most important announcement, namely, a bequest to the town by Martha Sawin of Natick, to establish "a select school in the centre of the town." Fears were entertained that the will would be contested, but fortunately the heirs decided to make no contest, and at the town meeting of March, 1871, the following resolution was put on record:

"Whereas, Miss Martha Sawin, late of Natick, bequeathed to the Town of Sherborn the most of her large estate, for educational purposes;

"Therefore, the citizens desire to acknowledge the good providence of God in this donation to the town for this noble object, and they desire to place

upon record their grateful remembrance of the donor, and their pledge that they will endeavor to fulfil her wishes as expressed in her will."

Jonathan Holbrook, Edmund Dowse, Abijah R. Leland, Amos Bullard and Amos Bigelow were appointed Trustees of Sawin Academy and Dowse High School, as the new institution was to be known, and they reported at the town meeting in 1871 that the wood, timber, and part of the real estate included in the Martha Sawin bequest had been sold, and a site for the school bought of the Russell heirs for \$2,000.



SAWIN ACADEMY

The total value of the bequest was later reported to be \$42,324.16, of which \$20,000 was expended in the erection of a beautiful brick building upon the site selected, an attractive natural park in the center of the village. The dedication took place September 10, 1874. Among those present were Vice President Wilson, Judge Bacon, Judge White of Dedham, and other distinguished guests.



GRADED SCHOOL

The principal address of the day was made by Judge White, who spoke of the great benefits which would come to Sherborn from such a school. A fine crayon portrait of Martha, or "Patty" Sawin, as she was familiarly known, was presented to the school by Mr. Holbrook, and it still hangs in the main room of the building. Prayer was offered by Rev. Edmund Dowse, followed by singing, and a brief address by Vice President Wilson.

Martha Sawin was a descendant of Thomas Sawin, who came to Sherborn from Watertown November 29, 1679, and built a sawmill on Chestnut Brook. He subsequently bought land of the Natick Indians bordering on Natick Brook, built a sawmill there, and became prominent in both towns. He died in Sherborn August 16, 1727. These facts doubtless account for Martha Sawin's interest in the town.

The school opened September 16, 1874, with sixty-four pupils, seven of whom were from out of town, under the principalship of Edward A. H. Allen. The school celebrates this year its fiftieth anniversary, and has to a large extent justified the hopes of its founders that it might prove of lasting benefit to the youth of the town. Many of its graduates have entered higher schools and colleges, some have entered upon successful business careers, and many are counted among the substantial and respected residents of Sherborn. The school is ranked in Class A for admission to Normal Schools, and has the privilege of sending its graduates to college by certification.

In 1896 the town took another forward step when it entered a super-

intendency union with Holliston and Medway. Since that time seven superintendents have had charge of the educational interests of the town.

The present Center School building was completed in 1910, and stands upon land leased from the Academy, for which an annual rental of \$500 is paid, the sum being used toward the salary of an assistant teacher. This same year saw the unification of the schools, the Academy, by special act of legislature, becoming a public high school under the authority of the school committee, and the academy trustees merely retaining the control of the property and funds.

In 1914 a Parent-Teachers Association was formed, which has done much effective service, and still serves to make the connection closer between the school and the home.

The recent appointment of a school physician, a school nurse, and the establishment of a dental clinic give proof of the town's desire to make our schools contribute as much as possible to the welfare of the children.

No history of our schools would be complete without some mention of those who have devoted many years of their lives to the training of our young people. First and foremost of these may be mentioned Rev. Edmund Dowse, who was a member of the school committee for more than sixty years and a member of the Trustees of Sawin Academy from the incorporation of the Board in 1872 almost, if not quite continuously, until his retirement from active service in the spring of 1904. Many of the reports of the school committee and trustees were written by him, and show an excellent knowledge of schools and methods of education. Norman B. Douglas served for eighteen years as a member of the school committee, and was for many years a trustee of the academy. He had an active part in the erection of the new Center School building, in the taking over of the Academy by the town, and in many other improvements in our school system.

Of teachers who devoted many years of their lives to the service of the schools, mention should be made of Sallie A. Whitney, who began to teach at an early age, and remained in service almost to the time of her death. Rebecca P. Maynard began to teach at the age of fourteen, and continued to be known even in old age as an active and efficient teacher. Clara A. Sylvester and Deborah P. Dowse continued as teachers for many years, and of their work the school reports invariably spoke in flattering terms. Many others are deserving of special notice, but time forbids their mention here.

SHERBORN SOLDIERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



BEFORE making mention of the 175 men from Sherborn who served in the Continental Army, it would be well to record here a vote of the town May 21, 1776, which illustrates vividly the feeling prevailing among our townsmen at the time of the Revolutionary struggle:—"Voted: that if the Continental Congress should in their wisdom declare the Colonies independent of Great Britain, we the inhabitants of the Town of Sherborn will with our lives and fortunes endeavor to support them in that measure."

A few other records tell interestingly of the preparations for war.

July 8, 1774—"The Selectmen and commissioned officers examined and tried the town's stock of ammunition, and there is 200 lbs. of powder, 150 lbs. of bullets, 295 flints and 200 lbs. of lead."

September 2, 1774—"Voted: to get a six pound field piece or cannon and chose Joshua Leland, Daniel Whitney and Benjamin Bullard a committee to procure it. Granted £18 to procure it and necessaries."

October 18, 1774—"Voted: to accept the three pieces of cannon which the Committee procured instead of a six pounder; that the Committee prove these at the town's expense, and fire the biggest as soon as may be with all the necessities that may be."

March 6, 1775—"Voted: that those that have and shall enlist as minute-men to the number of 53 be a company entire by themselves; to grant £8 to provide ammunition for the cannon; that the cannon be under the care and direction of the militia officers of the town; that the cannon be shot three times with powder and ball at the cost of the town."

On April 19, 1775, the minute-men of Sherborn marched to the alarm, followed by the rest of the able-bodied men, but they did not meet the British as the distance was great and the route of the assailants was uncertain.

I mentioned previously that 175 Sherborn men were actually engaged in the struggle, and that this paper may be complete, I am giving below the names of all. For a moment we will turn from the records of 1775-76 to a vote of the Town in 1896—some 120 years subsequently—which read: "Voted: that the Selectmen be a Committee to ascertain the number of graves of soldiers of the Revolution and War of 1812 and report to the annual Town Meeting." In 1897 the list was published and showed 175 names, with the graves of fifty-seven located. The names follow:

Adams, Asa	Bacon, Joseph, Capn.	Baker, Thomas
Adams, William	Badlam, Sylvanus, Sergt.	Barber, Elisha
Babcock, Amos	Badlam, Sylvester	Barber, Oliver
Babcock, Ebenezer	Badlam, William, Sergt.	Barber, Zachariah
Babcock, Malachi	Bailey, Eliphilet	Battle, Nathaniel

Brick, Elijah	Fiske, John	Leland, James
Brick, Daniel	Fuller, Jabez	Leland, Jeremiah
Brick, John	Gardner, Aaron, Capn.	Leland, John
Brick, Jotham	Gleason, Caleb	Leland, Jonathan
Brick, Luther	Goulding, Eleazer	Leland, Joseph
Brick, Thomas	Goulding, John	Leland, Joshua, Capn.
Bryant, Jonathan	Greenwood, Aaron	Leland, Micah
Bryant, Peter	Greenwood, Bela	Leland, Moses
Bullard, Asa	Greenwood, Jonathan	Leland, Samuel
Bullard, Benjamin, Capn.	Greenwood, Thomas	Leland, Simeon
Bullard, Charles	Grout, Elias	Leland, Oliver
Bullard, James	Grout, Nathan	Mason, Abner
Bullard, John	Grout, Royal	Merryfield, Asaph
Bullard, Samuel, Col.	Grout, Silas	Merryfield, Timothy
Chickering, Oliver	Hart, William	Morse, Adam
Clarke, Arthur	Hyde, John	Morse, David
Clarke, Asa	Hill, Caleb	Morse, Jesse
Clarke, Benjamin	Hill, Jesse	Morse, Joshua
Clarke, John	Hill, Moses	Morse, Levi
Clarke, Joseph	Hill, Whitney	Morse, Moses
Clarke, Josiah	Hill, Zedekiah	Morse, Samuel
Clarke, Samuel	Holbrook, Amos	Nutt, James
Clarke, William	Holbrook, David	Perry, Moses 3d
Clapp, Neamiah	Holbrook, Jonathan	Perry, Abner
Coolidge, Abraham	Holbrook, Joshua	Perry, Amos
Coolidge, Daniel	Holbrook, Thomas	Perry, David
Coolidge, Joel	Hoppins, Thomas	Perry, Edward West
Coolidge, John	Hooker, Zibeon	Perry, Josiah
Coolidge, Joseph	Houghton, Benjamin	Perry, Luther
Cozzens, Isaac	Johnson, Nathan	Perry, Moses
Crackbone, Joseph	Kendall, Benjamin	Perry, Moses, Lieut.
Cronyn, John	Kendall, Timothy	Perry, Nathaniel
Daniels, Timothy	Knowlton, John	Perry, Simeon
Death, Perley	Learned, Samuel, Capn.	Perry, Tyler
Death, Henry	Leland, Aaron	Phipps, Jedediah
Dill, Lemuel	Leland, Adam	Phipps, Jesse
Dolyear, John P.	Leland, Amos	Phipps, John
Dowse, Eleazer	Leland, Asa	Pradex, William
Dowse, Joseph	Leland, Barak	Pratt, Garsha
Fairbanks, Asa	Leland, Caleb	Prentice, Benjamin
Fairbanks, Ebenezer	Leland, Daniel	Prentice, Stephen
Fairbanks, Hopestill	Leland, Henry, Capn.	Rice, Daniel
Fairbanks, John	Leland, Hopestill	Russell, Isaac

Russell, Joel	Smith, Jonathan	Twitchell, John
Russell, Jonathan	Sparrowk, Jacob	Twitchell, Joshua
Russell, Samuel	Sparrowk, Timothy	Ware, Benjamin
Russell, Thomas	Spywood, Nehemiah	Ware, John
Ryder, Aaron	Stone, Silas	Ware, Joseph
Ryder, Moses	Stow, Samuel	White, Nahum
Sanger, Asa	Stroud, William	Whiting, Phnchus
Sanger, Jedediah	Twitchell, Abel	Whitney, Ephraim
Sanger, John	Twitchell, Abijah	Whitney, James
Shay, Patrick	Twitchell, Amos	Whitney, John
Smith, Elnathan	Twitchell, Eli	Whitney, Joseph

These men proved their heroism throughout the entire war, including the historic battles of Bunker Hill, White Plains and Brandywine, and their times of enlistment and service varied from five days to a period covering the entire war. Seven sons of Samuel Clarke enlisted as soldiers and served an average of over three years per man.

At the commencement of the Revolution, a building was erected near the residence of Deacon Fisk for the storage of provisions for the army and a guard stationed over it. When Mr. Emlyn Sparhawk dug the cellar to his house, posts were found placed close together which were undoubtedly a part of the stockade around the storehouse. In 1777 Sherborn men were drafted for six months and stationed to guard military stores in Sherborn and Mystic, Mass.

It will be interesting to record a few facts concerning some of the soldiers given in this list with the view of giving a rough idea of the duties performed, their places of residence, etc., etc.

Lieut. Moses Perry received his commission as a soldier for molding bullets, he staying at his home on Brush Hill.

Capt. Benjamin Bullard was at the head of his company at Lexington and Bunker Hill. He lived on what was the Horatio Mason place. This is the bordering farm to the present homestead of Arthur W. Bullard and is now owned by Mr. Rotman of Millis. In colonial days this was in territory called Sherborn.

Samuel Bullard, Colonel of the 5th Middlesex Company, was at the surrender of Burgoyne and at the Battle of Bennington. He resided north of the meeting-house near the present residence of Harry C. Gilmore.

Joseph Bacon was Captain of the 9th Sherborn Company and marched on the 19th of April, 1775. His occupation is said to have been that of doctor and carpenter. He was engaged by the town to enlarge the meeting-house. This he did, in accordance with a vote of the town, by sawing the building in two in the middle, moving one part the desired distance, and then filling in the space between the two parts. He lived nearly opposite the house of the late Rev. Edmund Dowse.

Jonathan Holbrook and Joseph Ware were marching at the Battle of White Plains and a cannon ball passing between them cut off the right arm of one and the left arm of the other. Mr. Holbrook died, while Mr. Ware returned to Sherborn and became an able surveyor, serving the Town as Selectman, Town Clerk and Treasurer. He resided where James Colford now lives. Mr. Holbrook resided where Mr. Eben M. Holbrook formerly lived.

Jedediah Phipps, another soldier, held various town offices and was a member of the Convention at Concord in 1779. At the beginning of the struggle when the army was almost without ammunition, Mr. Phipps produced to the General Court several pounds of saltpeter of his own manufacture, giving full evidence of his knowledge in discovering earth impregnated therewith as well as his ability to manufacture this commodity. He was taken into the service of the Colony to communicate and improve his useful discoveries, and was paid out of the public treasury the sum of 6s a day, and 20s a week to defray his expenses. He was also directed to repair to Newburyport. His home was on the road to Framingham west of Peter's Hill, fairly near the former residence of William B. Thompson.

Where all the saltpeter that was needed for the manufacture of powder during the war was secured, is uncertain. Some writers have said that it was obtained from the Mammoth Cave. At any rate Sherborn town officials appreciated the efforts of its citizens in that direction by presenting a certificate to Lieut. Moses Perry reading:

“This certifies that Samuel Sanger, Moses Perry, Edward West Perry and Edward Learned have manufactured a quantity of salt-peter in Sherborn.

John Grout,
Daniel Whitney,

Selectmen of Sherborn.”

Sherborn, April 22, 1776.

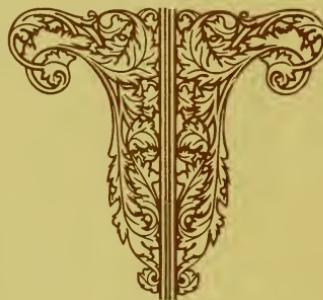
Joseph Dowse, my grandfather, saw service in Rhode Island, Albany, N. Y., and in the northern departments. His residence was on the same site as now occupied by my house.

Patrick Shay is said to have been the father of Daniel Shay, who became noted for his leadership of Shay's Rebellion in 1786. Tradition has it that Patrick, for some offense not now known, was publicly whipped at a tree near the present residence of Mr. H. C. Gilmore. Sherborn furnished its portion of officers and privates to join General Lincoln's troops to stamp out the Shay insurrection. Mr. John Ware acted as adjutant in this expedition, being sent with orders to a distance from Lincoln's army. He stopped at a tavern in Brookfield where there happened to be a small party of insurgents who took him prisoner and confined him in an upper room of the house, with a guard below. During the day Ware saw a company of cavalry approaching which

he recognized as being on the side of the Government. He hailed them and they immediately surrounded the house, the Shayites surrendering.

The Sherborn men who took part in the Revolution were not men of wealth. In 1798, or about one hundred years previous to the commencement of the work of locating graves (1896), Sherborn had 110 houses of a value of \$100 or more, the total valuation of which, including the lots on which they were erected (not exceeding two acres in any case), was \$40,111—so it can be seen that their average value was but little over \$360 apiece. These were the houses that the Sherborn soldiers resided in before and after the war.

NOTE—Since this paper was read before the Society in 1912 the following names have been found and should be added to the list of soldiers: Jonathan Hunt, David Barker, Esek Sanders, David Jonah and Thomas Jonah.



SHERBORN IN THE CIVIL WAR

[The editors feel that they cannot do better than reprint here the words of Dr. Albert H. Blanchard as prepared for Hurd's "History of Middlesex County." The list of those in service prepared by the editors contains one hundred five names.]

HE year 1861 is an era long to be remembered. The feeling of dissatisfaction in the Southern States, which had long been existing, came to a climax, and precipitated upon the nation the tremendous burden of a civil war. The crisis must be met, and it devolved upon the Northern and Western states to preserve the integrity of the Union. The President issued his proclamation for troops, and each state and town must furnish its quota of men. Sherborn had always performed her duty in great emergencies; she did it now. And we can turn with just pride to the honorable records of those days.

As early as May 1, 1861, at a town meeting called for the purpose, a committee was appointed to prepare resolutions, which were adopted as follows:

"Whereas, the stability of the Government of the United States is placed in great danger by an armed rebellion in several of the Southern states, threatening the destruction of our national capital and national prosperity, and a resort to armed resistance has become necessary for the preservation of our lives and liberty; and whereas, by proclamation from the President of the United States, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is called upon for her share in the common defence, therefore,

"Resolved, that the people of this town place the most perfect reliance and trust in the present form of our government, that we believe it to have been founded in wisdom and patriotism, and that we will throw aside all party feeling, and, with a firm reliance on the blessing of God, pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to uphold and perpetuate the institutions of the United States.

"Resolved, that the town of Sherborn appropriate two thousand dollars to fit out and furnish all necessary clothing for all those persons who have or may hereafter volunteer as soldiers in said town, or who may be drafted into service from said town, and to provide for their families in their absence."

At the same time a vote was passed entrusting the expenditure of this sum to a committee consisting of the selectmen and seven other citizens. It was also voted to guarantee to all volunteers and drafted men such a payment as with the Government pay should amount to \$17 a month.

A military school was formed for drill under the direction of an instructor, and aid in meeting the expense was granted by the town. In November, 1861, five hundred dollars was granted toward the support of families of volunteers. In 1862 a bounty of \$175 was offered to each volunteer from the town. Frequent meetings were held in the same year, at which addresses were given

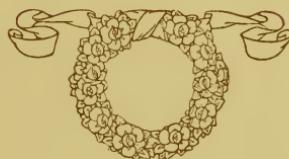
by public speakers on the subject of the war. In 1863 three thousand dollars was granted as aid to volunteers, and in 1864 two thousand dollars for the same purpose. Private subscriptions and contributions also were forthcoming, and they supplemented the appropriations of the town.

All these records show that Sherborn was animated with patriotic feelings, and was ready to assume her full share of the burden which the war laid upon thousands of loyal towns in the Union states. Eighty-two of her citizens were enrolled in the army, and of this number nineteen laid down their lives in the battlefield, the hospital, and the prison. Of those who lived to return to their homes, many came with shattered health, and there are but very few who do not bear the marks of wounds or the effects of disease contracted by the hardships and exposures of a soldier's life.

The memory of those trying times can never be obliterated from the minds of those who took part in the great conflict; but the establishment and yearly observance of Memorial Day have served to keep fresh in the hearts of all people the hallowed events of those days. That anniversary has always been sacredly kept by the veterans of Sherborn, and since 1885 has, by vote of the town, been observed as a public commemoration; the old soldiers, assisted by a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic from one of the neighboring towns, taking the leading part in the exercises of the day, and in decorating the graves of those who have passed away from the field of life.

Babcock, Lowell	Duly, Eastman L.	Howe, Henry
Babcock, Chas. F.	De Haven, Geo.	Howe, Henry Waldo
Bemis, John D.	Daniels, Lewis R.	Hoty, James
Blanchard, Albert H.	Dorr, John	Hill, Wm. F.
Bailey, Rasson	Duggin, Thomas	Ingraham, E. D.
Bigelow, Edmund D.	Fales, Chas. S.	Jones, Henry
Boyce, Guy	Fletcher, Giles E.	Johnson, James
Barrie, John	Fuller, Moses F.	Kelly, Thomas
Bickford, Elbridge M.	Gilmore, Willard	Knowlton, James H.
Bullard, Sylvanus	Gerstner, John	Leland, Edward
Barrows, Edward	Green, James W.	Leland, Chas. H.
Bradshaw, John	Green, Amos B.	Leland, Gilbert H.
Cleale, Jos. A.	Hooker, Emerson A.	Lynch, Terence W.
Carson, James	Holbrook, Joshua	Lowey, Robert
Connell, Peter	Holbrook, Edward	Leonard, John W.
Chandler, Wm.	Holbrook, Chas.	Mann, Geo. H.
Coolidge, Geo. M.	Hill, Jos. W.	Mann, Owen
Cleale, Artemus	Hildreth, Samuel A.	Mann, Noyes, Jr.
Chandler, John	Howard, Chas. H.	Mann, James M.
Cozzens, John R.	Hodgely, Chas. H.	Mann, Richard
Champion, Jos. D.	Harrington, Cornelius	Marron, Owen

Mitchell, Wm. L.	Raynor, Henry	Vosmus, Harrison A.
Marcy, Henry	Rundlet, Edgar C.	White, Samuel
Morey, Henry	Rooney, Patrick	Wilson, William
Moulton, Edward C.	Stratton, Edward B.	Wood, Asa W.
Moore, Geo.	Spinney, James W.	Whitney, Constant F.
Norton, Chas. A.	Sylvester, Avery	Whitney, Edmund T.
O'Connor, Geo.	Sylvester, Reuben	Whitney, Aaron
O'Riley, Wm. E.	Stout, Palmer B.	Whitney, Chas. E.
Pettis, Wm. H.	Smith, Abraham	Young, Victor J.
Pettis, James	Smith, Abiel E.	Young, Geo. N.
Pratt, Theodore	Smith, Alexander	Coolidge, Nelson, teamster
Pratt, Lorenzo	Shields, William	Dowse, Lewis R.
Pierson, Alexander	Taber, Thomas	Fales, John
Phelan, Thomas	Toomey, James	
Dowse, Rev. Edmund, Chaplain of the Christian Commission.		





O story of the part played by Sherborn men in the World War has yet been written, but the following list contains the names of those in service. Included in the list will be found the names of some who, though not residents of Sherborn at the time of enlistment, have at some time lived in the town.

Haviland C. Ames	Sears Fuller	Edward L. Newman
Joseph Adams	John P. Gavin	Francis A. Newman
Harry A. Ballou	Louis Grandoni	Theodore A. E. Newman
Herbert Bartlett	Nathan Grout	James C. Norton
Francis Berry	John Halpin	Swen Nyberg
James J. Berry	Fred Heffron	Philip L. Peckham
Frederick D. Blanchard	Harold M. Heffron	Carroll E. Phillips
Charles Bosse	Paul J. Heffron	Clifton H. Phillips
William A. Bosworth	J. Allen Hodder	Ovilla P. Plouffe
Henry S. Bothfeld	Weston P. Hodge	Percy P. Plouffe
Joseph Bray	Herbert R. Holbrook	Channing W. Porter
Walter S. Bullard	Russell E. Holbrook	Ivor Rawding
Harold E. Burke	Walter E. Holden	James P. Riley
Matthew Bulber	Harold L. Jackson	Michael J. Riley
Fred C. Carter	John C. Jackson	Francis E. Rollins
George P. Carter	Joseph E. Jackson	Charles Ryan
William A. Carter	Roy C. Jaques	Edwin Sargeant
George H. Clark	Clyde D. Kimball	Reade M. Sias
Herbert G. Crossman	William Kriger	Nathan Snyder
Martin Cullen	Edward F. Lane	Maurice Solomon
Lloyd Cummings	Maurice E. Levine	Guilford Statnell
Edward L. Cuneen	Charles L. Lewis	Charles H. Stearns
Wesley C. Curtis	Ralph J. Lewis	Henry E. Sullivan
Edwin Damon	James E. Long	Will T. Taber
Waldo L. Daniels	Daniel J. Lyons	John V. Thomas
Edmund C. Dowse	Francis A. Machialori	Philip Twombly
M. Floyd Dowse	G. Elwyn Mann	Walter Twombly
Denis J. Driscoll	John A. MacLean	Lloyd E. West
John R. Elder	William McRobb	Preston White
Joseph H. Fiske	Ralph C. Moore	Richard J. White
Edward L. Flynn	Ludgar Moran	Pearl J. Wilder
James Fraser	Frank Morton	Frederick F. Willis
James D. French	Narg Nelson	Leo W. Young
B. Apthorp G. Fuller	Sture Nelson	



DOWSE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THE TOWN LIBRARY

N 1860, when the town voted to maintain a public library, the following books created that library: 573 volumes from the Proprietors' and Agricultural Library; 52 volumes from School District No. 2; ten volumes (Appleton's Encyclopedia) from C. P. Sanger; four volumes from Henry Wilson; 77 public documents, and 167 purchased by the town,—a total of 883.

Of the early libraries mentioned in the foregoing, it is well to determine the individuality.

1st. There existed what was called the Farmers' Library (known officially as the Agricultural Library). These volumes were kept at the residence of, and in charge of, Bowen Adams.

2nd. The Social Library. This library belonged to the Social Circle, of which Amos Bullard, Vorestus Ware, and Nathaniel Clark were among the members. The library was kept at George Clark's store and he had charge of the distribution. Members were not limited as to the number of volumes they could take out, nor was there any definite rule as to returning them; in consequence, from time to time volumes marked "Social Library" have come to light in old attics in the town. This organization, beside maintaining a library, was a social organization, open to members and wives and invited guests. Meetings were held from time to time, and questions of interest discussed. Many of these meetings were held at the home of Rev. Amos Clark.

3rd. The Plain school district had a small library. This was kept at the house of Mr. Bispham, who resided in the old house that stood on the site of the present residence of Mr. Houghton. There were probably other school libraries.

During the pastorate of Mr. Dorr, the minister of the First Parish Church, he realized that the best interests of all the people could be better cared for by a combination of the various small libraries into one, with a view to a future Town Library. This met with serious opposition from some; but after several years of patient endeavor this result was accomplished, and the amalgamation that led to the town's maintaining a library was perfected. In March, 1860, the town voted to establish a town library. Every article of the plan of organization was taken up at town meeting and accepted.

There were originally seven trustees; in 1878 a change was made to a board of nine members, three chosen each year for a term of three years. There were to be two trustees-at-large and one from each school district. In recent years the last requisite has not been lived up to, but the residences of the trustees have been in most cases in other parts of the town than the Centre.

The first room used for the library was the west middle room in the Town Hall. Originally, as many of you will remember, there were two stairways in the Town House. In 1875 a fire occurred, and as a result the lower floor was remodeled. In consequence it was planned to acquire the new room on the northwest corner for a library room, as the middle room had become cramped quarters. The town finally voted to make the change, and necessary accommodations were installed at a cost of \$406.76. This northwest room was rather cosy. It had an ingrain carpet on the clear floor space, and was warmed by an air-tight stove that could heat, but did smoke.

The next move was some sixteen years later, and again was made because of the need of more room. Shelving was moved where possible, and new shelving made in the southwest room, and the trustees did the moving. Franklin Grout, Mrs. C. A. Clark, Miss Lizzie Coolidge and N. B. Douglas I remember among the trustees who helped.

Again feeling the necessity of more room, and the growing need of a reading-room, in 1906 the northwest room was again asked for and granted, new shelving erected, a large table built, and comfortable chairs bought. It was at this time that the trustees began to purchase books suitable for the smaller children, and to encourage children to use the library. At this time also the open shelf system was introduced.

In 1889 the library received its first gift aside from municipal aid, in the bequest of Aaron Greenwood. This fund of some \$1,200 has brought in four per cent. per annum, and this has been yearly expended for the purchase of books of permanent value.

The first librarian was Henry W. Bullard, afterward the station agent.



TOWN HALL, SHERBORN

He was often assisted by his daughter, Miss Ellen Bullard. His pay for salary and incidentals the first year was \$44. In 1864 Geo. B. Hooker was librarian; he was succeeded by his son, Frank E. Hooker. The next librarian was Miss Emma Babcock. In 1885 Miss Martha C. Clark was chosen at a salary of \$75; she served until 1893, when Miss M. Nellie Clark was chosen. Miss Clark continued in office until the change to the new building.

May 18, 1914, the Selectmen received a communication from Mr. Wm. B. H. Dowse stating that he had erected a library on the Main Street which he wished to present to the town.

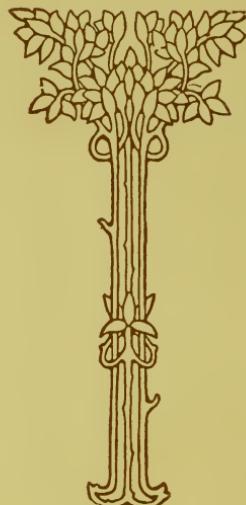
On May 26, 1914, a special town meeting was held and the vote was unanimous in favor of acceptance. The conveyance of building and land was on the express condition that the Library be used and maintained by the town as a free public library to be known and called the Dowse Memorial Library. This building is a memorial to Mr. Dowse's parents, Rev. Edmund Dowse and Elizabeth Bowditch Dowse.

The building was dedicated June 10th, 1914. Appropriate exercises were held in the Town Hall, and the building was open for public inspection. It is a one-story brick structure. On the main floor are delivery room, two reading

rooms and stack-room. In the basement is a large hall for community use, also the boiler room.

Miss Elizabeth Coolidge, a niece of the donor, was elected librarian and has held the position since that time. The services of a janitor have been found necessary.

At the time of the transfer to this building Sherborn had upon the shelves of its library more than seven thousand volumes.





THE LELAND HOMESTEAD

OLD HOUSES OF SHERBORN

THE LELAND HOMESTEAD

In 1652 Richard Parker of Boston deeded 535 acres of Sherborn land to Nicholas Wood, Andrew Pitcher, and Thomas Holbrook. In 1666 Thomas Holbrook deeded 80 acres of his share to his brother-in-law Henry Leland, "who had already occupied it twelve years." Thus from the year 1654 to the present, the farm in which the Leland Homestead stands has been owned by Henry Leland and his descendants. The first dwelling-house on the estate is believed to have been northeast of the present house, nearly opposite the home of Mr. George Hartherz; there was formerly an apple tree near this site which was said to have grown from a seed brought from England by Margaret, the wife of Henry Leland. The age of the Homestead is not precisely known, but the land on which it stands was left by Hopestill Leland (Henry's son), to his son Joshua in 1729, and it is probable that the house was built soon after. Until it was remodeled a few years ago, it had the long sloping roof, the great square chimney, and the oak wainscoting common in houses of that period. The garret shows massive beams hewn on one side, but otherwise left in their natural shape. The nails are hand-wrought, and there are curious antique hinges. The attic stairs are solid triangular blocks, laid upon oak planks for supports.

THE COLONEL SANGER HOUSE

The land upon which the Sanger house stands is a portion of that tract set apart by the proprietors in 1684 "for the Ministry." In an earlier house upon nearly the same site, built by the Parish in 1711, lived the second, third and fourth ministers of the Church. Here then came Judge Samuel Sewall in 1715, when he "lodged at Cousin Baker's," or on other occasions, "supped with Cousin Baker."



COLONEL SANGER HOUSE

The present house was built in 1818 by the Hon. Calvin Sanger, for many years a leading citizen of the town. Morse says of him that "in 1806, almost by acclamation, they placed him at the head of her (Sherborn) public affairs." He was Colonel of the first company of cavalry raised in the vicinity, representative to the General Court for thirty years, Senator, and for more than forty years held various town offices, meanwhile conducting a local store, and other business interests which took him over a considerable part of New England.

Early in 1800 he acquired by purchase a township in Maine, where he built a saw and grist mill sending young men, Walter Leland, and the Knowltons, to take charge of it. When later it was incorporated, the town was named for him, Sangerville. Many of its early settlers were from this town, and Sherborn names are still familiar there.

Mr. Sanger, also, with Hopestill Leland, started the first cotton manufactory in Framingham.

After his death, his son Calvin Phipps Sanger, a very successful merchant of New York City, became the owner of the estate, using it for a summer home. Mr. C. P. Sanger was a notably gracious and philanthropic man, the founder of the The Sherborn Widows' and Orphans' Benevolent Society.

Since his death it has been owned by Mr. A. R. Leland, Mr. Francis Bardwell, Mr. C. B. Prince, Mrs. Selma K. Hynson, Mr. R. H. Leland, and Miss Gladys M. Smith.

THE PAUL HOMESTEAD

About 1679 Jonathan Whitney, from Watertown, had a home lot assigned him of thirty acres, now included in the Paul Farm. The place remained in the Whitney family for several successive generations.

The traditions of that period are chiefly connected with the Hon. Daniel Whitney,



HUNTING LANE FARM, SHERBORN, MASS.

who was born in 1733 and died in 1810. He was a much respected and honored citizen, member of the Provincial Congress in 1775, of the convention to form the State Constitution, and of that which adopted the Federal Constitution, representative to the General Court for fourteen years and served the town in many offices.

In 1825 the property came into the possession of Capt. Paul who greatly enlarged the house by adding eells, and maintained a store and tavern there for many years. It is still in the possession of his descendants and one of the finest of our ancient landmarks.

THE FLAGG HOUSE

The Flagg Homestead has been in the possession of that family since Oct., 1811. They inherited it from the Rev. Elijah Brown, fifth minister of the Sherborn Church, whose pastorate extended from 1770 to 1816. Tradition says that when he purchased the house in 1772 he altered and enlarged it, but it has stood unchanged since then. Mr. Brown bought of Samuel Stowe, a Revolutionary soldier, and before that it was owned by Zaccheus Haws, Caleb Greenwood and Wm. Hill.

The land upon which it stands was a part of a triangular lot, bounded by Maple and Washington Streets, and an old road, which ran from So. Sherborn to Chestnut Brook, on the S. W. side. This was originally granted to "certain inhabitants of that part of the town called Dirty Meadow," and the grant was confirmed to them by the town meeting of Mar. 3d and 4th, 1700-1. These people, or their estates, eight in number, held it until 1739, when apparently only three of the original men were living.

"The purchase consideration [to Hill] was five £ to each original 8 in the same, and so proportionable to the heirs and descendants of those deceased."



OLD CLARK HOUSE

“THE BUTTONBALLS”

No record of the building of this house has yet been found. In April, 1778, Samuel Clarke, Jr., married Elizabeth Learned of Sherborn and brought his bride here to live through the rest of their lives. He was born on the old Clark place near Farm Pond in 1749, a descendant of the early settlers of the town, and served in the war of the Revolution.

The title to the farm was conveyed to him by Whitney Hill, also a Revolutionary soldier, on Mar. 6, 1778, and the deed does not mention the house. There is a tradition that the house was moved from Medfield, but built as it is with large central chimney, that would hardly seem probable. There are the fireplaces, brick ovens, smoke closet, hand hewn oak timbers and hand wrought nails customarily used in a house of that period.

The ell was raised in 1822, but the main house remains as it was in 1788.

Rev. Amos Clarke, only son of Samuel, was born here in 1779. He was graduated at Harvard in 1804, and became the seventh minister of the First Parish in Sherborn. He recalled the planting by his father of the large buttonball trees in front of the house, and placed the date about 1789.

Four generations of the family have been born under the roof. Six generations have lived here.

THE WARE HOUSE

The first known owner of the land upon which stands the present Colford house was Capt. John Hull, and the phrase “Capt. Hull’s farm” had become established before 1669.

Hull was a wealthy Boston merchant, mint-master, Treasurer of Boston and Treasurer of the Colony of Massachusetts. He married Judith Quincy, and his only child

Hannah became the wife of Samuel Sewall, later Chief Justice of the Colony. In his college days at Harvard, Sewall knew and was a friend of Daniel Gookin, who became the first minister of the Sherborn Church; and their wives were cousins. Our only record of Gookin's ordination is an extract from Sewall's famous diary.

Sewall inspected his property here at intervals aided by men in the neighborhood, of whom he mentions Goodman Holbrook, Whitney, Jos. Morse and others. In 1687 he brought his wife out for a visit of several days, and records among other things, "shewed her the meeting house" (built 1684-5).

Upon his death his daughter Judith inherited the farm, and immediately sold it by deeds dated Jan. 21, 1734-5, one half to Capt. Jos. Ware, one half to Richard Sanger.

The house is supposed to have been built soon after this date. [Morse.] It remained in the Ware family until 1872 when it was purchased and somewhat altered by the father of the present owner.

Capt. Jos. Ware had married a grand-daughter of Nicholas Wood, the first settler. Here they ended their days. He was prominent in the life of the town in his time, and very many of his descendants have been notably so in the community at large. Here were born and lived Joseph Ware, Revolutionary soldier who lost an arm at the battle of White Plains, later teacher, surveyor, town clerk; Henry Ware, minister, professor at Harvard, head of the Harvard Divinity School; Asher Ware, professor, lawyer, and judge of the U. S. District Court at Portland Me.

DR. JONATHAN TAY HOUSE

This house was built about 1700 by James Morse, son of Capt. Joseph Morse, on land which his father drew in a division of "common land" in West Sherborn. The site was long marked by an ancient elm which has recently been replaced by another. His daughter Ruth married Joshua Leland, grandson of Henry, the first settler of the name.



DR. JONATHAN TAY HOUSE



THE DRISCOLL HOUSE

On the death of Joshua in 1722 the place was conveyed to Dr. Jonathan Tay, who came from Salem to make his home here, and married Mary Holbrook. He had an extensive practice, and in the room which served as his office the same wooden shutters are still at the windows that through their heart-shaped openings at the top shed light through the night for those who sought his door.

His daughter Betsey married Hopestill Leland, and their descendants have owned and occupied the place to the present day. The house still stands nearly in the original form, firm and strong, a sample of the good work done in those early days.

THE DRISCOLL HOUSE

This is one of the few houses of the lean-to type now remaining in Sherborn. No precise date of its erection can be given, but a noted New England antiquarian is of the opinion that it was built early in the eighteenth century.

It appears to have been owned by the family of Eleazar Leland from 1717 to 1791. His wife was Mary Lovet. Their youngest daughter Mehitable married Benj. Ware, and their son, Eleazar Ware, sold this place in 1820 to David Sanger. In 1840 Sanger conveyed the homestead to his son-in-law, Ira Mann, who in 1868 sold the place to James Driscoll.

The house formerly had a stone chimney 12 x 12, which was removed in 1872. The base of it still remains. Two lead framed windows were in position in 1868. Old residents related that the lean-to formerly extended the whole length of the house, with roof sloping to the ground, having been altered to its present appearance about 1825.

THE MORSE HOMESTEAD

About 1656 Daniel Morse of Medfield purchased the Bradstreet Grant of 800 acres and immediately settled upon it. This grant extended from Charles River to the foot of Meeting House Hill, and was known and has ever since been continued to be called "The Farm." Morse, the historian, says of Daniel, "he was evidently a man of rank," a leader in securing the incorporation of the town, and "in all public meetings and elections precedence was uniformly yielded to him as long as he lived."

The site of the original house is thought to be somewhat back of, but near the present house. On the outbreak of Philip's war, it served as a garrison house. The following letter was found in the office of the Sec'y of State, supposed to have been addressed to Maj. Gen. John Leverett, Gov.

"May it please your Worship,

Prostrating my humble service to your Worship, I made bold lately to request your help of four men to be a garrison at my house which is for my family and my sons with me, most being married men; I humbly prosecute my request that so it might be that I might have four men out of Medfield. That Edward West and Benj. Fisk [sons-in-law] might be two of them, they living in the remote part of Medfield next my farme and they being willing to come if liberty by authority were given. That they might be imprest by authority to be ready when I shall call for them. Thus I make bold, humbly begging the everlasting blessing and constant presence of the Almighty to be with your Worship. So prays

Your humble servant,

Daniel Morse, Sen.

Sherborne, 26, 11, 1675-6.

In the name of my sons."

"Granted for the present."

[Morse]

The place continued to be held by descendants of the name until 1902. The date of erection of the present house is not definitely known. This was considerably enlarged by the addition of eells during Dr. Walter Channing's occupancy. The estate is now the property of Mr. Richard Saltonstall.



OLD SANGER HOUSE



N the settlement of Sherborn pioneers came as early as 1649 from Boston, Watertown, Dedham, Salem, Medfield and Natick. Sherborn in turn sent out men to settle in many towns, among them Framingham, Hopkinton, Holliston, Mendon, Barre, Peru, Douglas, Warwick, Sangerville in Maine, and Dublin in New Hampshire.

The emigration to Dublin began about a hundred years after the settlement of Sherborn, or about 1762, though there is no definite information as to the exact date. Evidently men from Sherborn went into the wilderness, cut roads or pathways through the woods, and built cabins, before going there to live. It is known that between the years 1760 and 1762 Sherborn men worked on the roads in the District of North Monadnock, No. 3, as it was then called, from three to five days at a time.

The early history of Dublin is closely connected with that of Sherborn in many ways. The first permanent English settler was Thomas Morse, who was born in Sherborn in 1709, and moved to Dublin with his family in 1762.

Rev. Samuel Lock, fourth pastor of the church in Sherborn, rode to Dublin on horseback in the autumn of 1767, and preached the first sermon ever delivered in that town at the home of Eli Morse, one of the emigrants from Sherborn. On this occasion he also baptized Sarah, a daughter of Eli Morse,—undoubtedly the first Christian baptism ever performed in the town.

Two Sherborn men, Moses Adams and William Greenwood, were on the committee of three chosen to build the first meeting-house, and the building was erected under the direction of William Greenwood, who was a carpenter by trade.

The entire committee of five chosen to select a minister was made up of Sherborn men, namely, Eli Morse, Moses Adams, William Greenwood, Joseph Twitchell and Levi Partridge.

The Sherborn church was invited to attend the ordination of the pastor selected, Rev. Joseph Farrar, though it is not known whether the invitation was accepted, as no record of the ordination has been discovered.

When difficulties arose in the church during his ministry, the Sherborn church was one of five invited to form a council to hear the difficulties and give advice. This invitation was probably not accepted, as no mention of a Sherborn representative is made in the report of the council.

In the second year after the organization of the Dublin church, the church in Sherborn united with Mrs. Elizabeth Whitney in presenting to their Dublin brethren, as a token of their regard, a beautiful communion service of exquisite English pewter, which is still in an excellent state of preservation, and is used once a year as an affectionate reminder of the worthy founders of the church, and as a token of respect for the donors of the service. An inscrip-

tion on one of the flagons reads, "Given by the Church in Sherborn to the Church in Dublin, Anno Domini 1774"; on the other, "The Gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Whitney of Sherborn to the Church in Dublin, Anno Domini 1774."

Of the early settlers of the town, by far the greater number came from Sherborn. The reason for this appears from the fact that Joseph Twitchell of Sherborn was the agent of the proprietors for the sale of the land. He himself purchased a large amount of land, and though he did not settle in Dublin, five of his sons were among those who went from this town.

The list of emigrants from Sherborn includes the names of Moses Adams, Amos and Ebenezer Babcock, Isaac Bond, James Chamberlain, Asa Fairbanks, William, Bela, Eli and Joseph Greenwood, Ebenezer Hill, Benjamin Learned, Benjamin, Thaddeus, Eli and Thomas Morse, Reuben, Ezra, John, Jonathan and Amos, sons of Thomas Morse, John Knowlton, Levi Partridge, Ivory Perry, Ebenezer Pratt, Caleb Stanford, Samuel, Joseph, Eleazer, Ezra, Abel, Gershom, Abijah, Ebenezer and Joshua Twitchell.

Capt. Thomas Morse, the first of the Sherborn emigrants, came to Dublin in 1762, and nearly all the others mentioned were in Dublin before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Capt. Morse was one of the oldest, as well as one of the most prominent of the settlers from Sherborn. He was offered a commission as captain in the British army by the royalist Governor Wentworth, but indignantly refused it. On account of his age he remained at home, but five of his sons enlisted, and took part in many of the most important battles of the war.

Sherborn was well represented in this war, not only by a large number of men who went direct from the town, but also by sixteen others who enlisted in Dublin.

As Sherborn men were prominent in the early years of the town, so many of their descendants have gained distinction in later years.

Joseph Greenwood was Town Clerk from the incorporation of the town in 1771 for about twenty years, and was the most prominent business man in town. He was a Selectman for ten years, Town Treasurer for several years, and the first justice of the peace.

Cyrus Chamberlain, son of Captain James Chamberlain, held the office of Town Clerk for twenty-eight years, and was the first postmaster in the town, the post-office being located in the barroom of his hotel, where strips of tape tacked to the wall served to hold the letters.

Benjamin Learned and Eli Morse, both emigrants from Sherborn, were the first deacons of the church, and James Allison, a descendant of both these men, was a deacon of the same church for forty-four years, his period of service being exceeded only by that of Deacon Learned, who served for forty-six years. Henry D. Allison, a son of Deacon James Allison, served two terms in the State Legislature, and was nominated by the Progressive Party as candidate for governor.

Rev. John C. Learned, a descendent of Deacon Learned, was for twenty-three years pastor of the Church of the Unity in Saint Louis, and one of the most eminent clergymen of the Unitarian denomination.

Dr. Amos Twitchell, son of Samuel Twitchell, was one of the most prominent physicians of his time, and was at various times offered professorships in four New England colleges, which, however, he declined, preferring to practice his profession rather than teach.

Many other descendants of the Sherborn emigrants to Dublin have served as town officers, and have represented the town in the State Legislature. It is impossible to enumerate them all here. Suffice it to say that the record of the men who went to Dublin from this town, and that of their descendants, is one of which Sherborn may well be proud.



A NOOK ON FARM POND

SHERBORN IN THE FORTIES

(Written in 1913)



MAY call these recollections "Sherborn in the Forties." That was the time when I was a school-girl, and I have tried to describe the town as it looked to me then, giving most space to that which came naturally within my observation.

Beginning, then, at the Natick line, on the "old road" or South Natick road, the first house is the picturesque Woodcock house, nestled into its hill. This was an old building which William Woodcock moved there. His mother lived with him till he was married.

The Horace Barber place, later the Tyler place, was built some eighty years ago. The Morses built it. Mr. Barber sold his estate and went to the West in the sixties. His three daughters are now living in the state of Kansas, Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Rankin and Miss Harriet A.

The house on the other side, now Edgar Smith's, was built for Wetherbee Chamberlain.

Where Hazen Auringer lived was the Adam Leland place. He gave the land for the burial ground, and he had Lot No. 1 in recognition of the gift. There was a place in the wall of the burial ground where they could go out and in from his land. His place was owned afterward by Amory Babcock, Sr., who built later where Mr. Green lives.

The "new road" to Natick was made about 1857; it was when I was in school, and there was a great deal of talk about it, and about its sinking because of quicksand. Susan Morse taught our school then. It was a long time before the commissioners accepted it, because there was such a bad place through the Swamp. Before this, people went to Natick by the West Natick road or by Rockland street.

Mr. Bartlett's* house was built by Sam Sanger. Asa Read, who had worked for Joseph Dowse, bought it about 1853. The lane opposite the burial ground, now Rockwood Lane, led to the poor-farm, where George Hooker formerly lived. It was originally a Rockwood place.

The house next the burial ground was built by Charles Dowse later than the time I write of; opposite that stood the Michael Clark place, which was sold afterward to Oliver Barber. He kept house by himself, and made whips.

The Joseph Dowse place came next (now Dr. Cushing's) with the little whip-shop next the road. The Henry Dowse place came next and then the Nat Dowse place. I do not remember the old house on this place. Nathaniel Dowse held many offices here and was a good, honorable man. He was on the board of assessors many years. My father used to work with him, and he said,

*Mr. Cousineau's.

"Nat Dowse is the quickest and most correct at figures of anyone I ever worked with."

Joseph Dowse, Jr., built in 1846 on land that had belonged to his father. He lived first in "Widow Rice's" house, now Bert Holbrook's. "Widow Rice" took girls to bring up. She had sons and a daughter, but they did not live here with her.

Nelson Coolidge's place and the Ellis Sparhawk place, afterward Horace Stratton's, were both burned.

The Abijah Stratton place, afterward Aaron Stratton's, could be seen from our house. The low red house with its big elm tree, nestling under the shadow of Peter's Hill, was the prettiest picture of a New England home that one can imagine.

George Davis's house was at first a Perry place, owned by Nat Perry, a cooper by trade, commonly called "Cooper Perry." The old house was torn down about 1869, and Amanda Davis built the present one, as later she built the one where Alden Adams lives.

John Merriam's* house has been moved from the original site. It belonged to Deacon William Tucker, and farther back was a Perry place. Deacon Tucker sold it to Galen Bowditch, the father of Mrs. Edmund Dowse, in 1835.

At the Davis place the "new road" to Framingham branches off from the "old road." The house on the right on the new road was a Kimball place, where Mrs. George Hooker was born.

Mr. Thompson's place was a Phipps place, but I do not remember any house there. It was Mrs. Joseph Sanger's home, and Mrs. Louis Holbrook's; there were several Phipps sisters, said to be very handsome.

The house where the Wests live is the Deacon Aaron Coolidge place, where Rev. Amos H. Coolidge was born. Mr. Crane's was a Hill place. Amos Hill's wife was a Bowker, sister to Mrs. Wetherbee Chamberlain.

There was a pretty little brook, which people used to drive through, near where the West Natick road turns off. The Bean place is the old Daniel Coolidge place; that place is said to have been bought from the Indians, and many generations of Coolidges lived there.

Returning now to Dowse's Corner: Lake street was laid out about 1852. William Dowse built the first house on it in 1856.

Lowell Coolidge, before he was married, boarded at Nathaniel Dowse's and afterward built his own house. I do not know whether that or Mrs. Church's was built first, but they were not far apart in years, about 1850 or 1851. He bought the land of Ben Dowse.

Benjamin Dowse's† place stood back from the road, with a high bank wall in front. He owned a place first below the Woodcock place, and there he lived when he was first married. Rev. Edmund Dowse was born there.

*Mr. Kaufmann's.

†Dr. Travis.

Emlyn Sparhawk's house has always been there since I can remember. Deacon Fisk used to live where Miss Lizzie Coolidge did, and built afterward the house opposite. His tannery was near where the store burned down. I used to sit in school and watch Deacon Fisk come out and tack up hides, and we could see the old horse going round and round in the mill where the bark was ground.

Captain Clark's house and store was a good deal like the Paul house, with the store in the south ell. The old house was occupied by three generations of Clarks, Deacon William Clark, his son Alpheus and his grandson Charles. There was a store there for a hundred years. In 1876 they tore down the old house, moved away the store and built the new house that is occupied by Mr. Dingley. A store was built which was burned in 1881.

From school, too, we could watch the teams riding through the brook and watering the horses. Lemuel Leland had a gun shop near the brook, and his house still stands just beyond. My father owned a flintlock gun which bears Lemuel Leland's initials and the date 1817.

The Plain Schoolhouse was a little farther south than it is now. It has been moved two or three times. Hiram Jones of Dover built it; he also worked on the First Church.

The Col. John Bigelow place, originally a Newell place, was where the Marriners* now are. It stood cornerwise to the road, as the C. O. Littlefield house does. Elijah Leland lived there afterward.

Malachi Babcock's blacksmith shop was near the stone shop. I cannot tell just when the shop was torn down, but it was there when we went to school, and it was so cheerful to hear the sound of the anvils. Mr. Babcock was one of the happiest men I ever saw. He was a singer, and used to play the bass viol in the church.

The "stone shop" was Capt. Partridge's fork manufactory, and his house was on the hill where Dr. Poor† lives.

Opposite that house is Butler Road, where our house is. It has always been occupied by our family. My father, Jeremiah Butler, was born in Hopkinton; his first teacher in the public school was Hannah Adams, the historian. He learned the wheelwright's trade at Watertown, and it was while working as a journeyman that he first came to Sherborn, and was so pleased with the place that he made it his home. He worked at his trade, but in later life had much to do in the drawing of wills, settlement of estates and care of orphan children. He was a Democrat in politics, a Universalist in his faith, an ardent Freemason, a man strictly temperate in everything, self-taught, but according to his opportunities he acquired a great deal. He was a great pedestrian; there was no railroad line, and he never kept a horse. He often

*Houghton.

†Mr. Macfarland.

walked to Framingham Centre, where the Probate court was held, and back before noon, and this even when he was past seventy. In the lifetime of his parents he often walked to Hopkinton to see them, coming back the same day.

He was much interested in history and in natural scenery. He took his children to Sudbury, Lexington and Concord, and he used to take all his guests up on Brush Hill. He had a spyglass and set up a post on Brush Hill to support it. He knew all the landmarks within twenty miles, and liked to point them out.

While he was a young man a cousin at Harvard College told him of "a little instrument to measure heat, called a thermometer." Learning that there was one at Framingham Academy, he turned aside on his walk from Hopkinton to Watertown, and went to see it. When he had a home of his own, he bought one of these new instruments; and Mrs. Ware remembered that people used to call to look at it as a curiosity.

The "Widow Wyeth" lived where Mr. Willis lives. She carried on the farm and did dressmaking—a very energetic woman.

Hunting Lane ran up Brush Hill to the John Perry place.

The Paul place was originally the Daniel Whitney place. Old records speak of Daniel Whitney coming here from Watertown, and settling "south of Rocky Hill." The name was probably given to the summit just north of the house. Only the main house was built then, and there was a barn at the north, and they used to go in and out at that door. Daniel Whitney was the wise counselor here, but his sons were not so good. Old Deacon Clark, George Clark's grandfather, married one of Squire Whitney's daughters. Mrs. Emlyn Sparhawk was a grand-daughter of Squire Whitney. I have not been able to find the date of that house, but it must be quite old. Captain Paul came here in 1825, and bought the Whitney place; he put on the south ell for his store. The back part was the old Centre schoolhouse, which had stood about where Mr. Stone's* house is. In 1834 the district was divided and the Plain schoolhouse built. The north ell of the house was put on in Edwin Paul's lifetime; afterward it was moved away to Eliot street.

The "new road" across the Plain, now Eliot street, has been there ever since I can remember. My mother remembered its being cut across there after she came to Sherborn.

Where Miss Anderson† lives was the Charles Rockwood place, and the next place was "old Ben Bullard's." He built it in two tenements, for himself and his son.

The next place was the Eleazer Dowse place; he was a Revolutionary soldier. His daughter Polly married Elbridge Mann, and they lived there after the old folks were gone. "Eb." Mann was a carpenter, a very nice workman. He built Colonel Sanger's house, Joseph Sanger's, Aaron Greenwood's,

*Mr. Bardwell's.

†Mr. Geo. Fleming.

Lemuel Leland's and Captain Goulding's, where the Shillabers* are. Mrs. Mann in her young days worked as a tailor. She told me once the rule her mother gave her when she began to go about from house to house working at her trade: "Polly, never tell at the house where you work this week what you sow or heard at the house where you worked last week. A great many things are said and done in every family, which are all right in the family, but are not right to be told of outside."

The Bullard† house was a Perry place originally, but I remember Harry Bullard there, and afterward his sons George and Nason. They were Squire Whitney's great-grandsons.

The house where Charles Bickford lives used to be on the land where Mr. Douglas‡ lives. When James Bullard came home from the South, where he had been dealing in shoes, he had the old house moved off and built the new one in which Mr. Douglas lives now. Amasa Lathrop lived in the old one.

Beyond the Mann house was the malt-house, on the ground where Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Everett live. And a little house beyond the malt-house was Andrew Bullard's cabinet shop. It stood in the wall, close to the road, a little to the south of Mrs. Miller's house. It was moved away, and is now Mrs. Peckham's house.

Pine Hill Cemetery was laid out later. There was no railroad, of course. Neither Mr. Stone's house nor George Clark's was built. The next house was the one Mrs. Onion§ lives in. In Linden Court there was no house, but a path to drive cattle.

The old Sanger house, owned by Samuel Sanger, the father of Colonel Sanger, came next—a very old house, long and low. Here Washington is said to have stopped. On the other side was the Joseph Sanger house and his store. George Clark took the store in 1846.

Dr. Everett built the Everett house. He was a very successful physician, with a great deal of practice, kept three horses and had plenty for them to do. He was very jolly, full of jokes and stories; it helped the sick just to see him. He did not live to be old, but died at fifty-three. It was a great loss to the town. His body was the first one laid in the new cemetery.

The Colonel Sanger place is a grand old home. It used to be the resort for a great deal of New York company, so stylish and grand that people went to meeting to see them come in. They would fill a number of pews.

Robert Leland's house was Colonel Sanger's store, but I do not remember that. It was let for a time to different families—noisy families whom we could hear as we sat in church.

*French's.

†The Misses Wiggin.

‡Gilmore.

§D. L. Whitney.

The First Church is the mother church, where all our ancestors were brought up.

Going up the West Sherborn road, Richard Sanger's place was where Georgiana Holbrook lived. He used to keep six or eight dogs. None of the houses that were built by the Flemings were there at the time I write of. But I remember the Ed. Holbrook place—now McMurtrie's*, and an old house where Lowell Coolidge lives (I think Elbridge Mann lived there once).

Beyond Lowell Coolidge's is the ancient homestead of Samuel Clarke. It was the birthplace, and for forty years the home of Rev. Amos Clarke, the seventh minister of the First Church. He had a large family, seven sons and five daughters. A number of the sons were college graduates, one was a lawyer, two were physicians, all were types of good citizenship. The home is in the possession of the descendants, who often revisit it and value it above all price. Of Mr. Clarke's settled ministry I have no recollection, but can remember him as preaching occasionally in later years. He was a constant attendant, and his venerable appearance is deeply impressed upon my memory. I know of his visits to the schools, and his counsels to the scholars. He was a good man, whose memory will ever be cherished with regard.

Eleazer Leland lived on the place which is now Geo. Carter's, then came the Jacob Cushing place; and up the road which goes off opposite Cushing's was the Elisha Barber place, Silas Stone's and the old Babcock place where G. W. Fleming lived,—Malachi Babcock's father lived there.

On Western avenue, Amos Leland's (now Henry Hawes') is a very old house. Eli Leland owned the house where Daniel Whitney lives; his daughter married Albert Ware and they lived there afterward. Geo. Whitney's† is an old place, and also the Twitchells'. The place lately owned by Dr. Ingraham‡ was the Ezra Morse place.

Returning to the main road,—Mrs. Flagg's house was the parsonage in Elijah Brown's day. Rev. William Brown boarded there also.

The old Centre Schoolhouse stood on the Common. It was moved away, and became James Bullard's shop. Mr. Norton, who married Emily Fleming, had a paint-shop there in the seventies, and at last Joshua Holbrook, Jr., bought it for a house.

Palemon Bickford built Dr. Blanchard's house. His father's house (Capt. Bickford's) was where Mr. Levine lives.

The Grout place has been the home of one family for a number of generations. There are but few places you will find in town where the descendants live in the old home. The new house was built in 1859. I walked up to see it when it was being built, because it was considered a splendid house.

Then comes "Old Cap'n Sam's" place,—such a place for company! And

*The Coombs house—since burned.

†Mr. Geo. Dexter's.

‡Mr. Moses.

the old man so happy! Many a time I have seen him coming along to church,—a short, thick-set man, with a beaver hat on, and a fresh complexioned smiling face, locking arms with his wife and carrying a rose in his hand. He would shake hands with the folks all around,—people do not seem so glad to see one another now. He had the third pew from the front, and when he had his grand-daughters with him (they were very handsome girls) he would sit down, and then lean forward to look at them with great satisfaction. He spent the whole year in Sherborn at the end of his life; before that, he lived in Boston except in summer.

The Asa Sanger* house is a very old house. On the Eames† place, Jonathan Eames and his son Jonathan have lived. The Greenwood place was owned by Jonas and Aaron Greenwood (now by Mrs. Harthertz)‡.

The corner by Driscoll's used to be called Sparhawk's Corner for old Tim Sparhawk. Mrs. Hawes' house was built by Fred Leland, but was bought by Sam Hawes, the father of Jerry Hawes, called "Old Chilly." This house is older than I am.

Where the Town Home is, was Curtis Coolidge's house, now moved away and owned by Patrick McCarthy. I think it is an old house, and Joseph Sanger lived there before he built up-town. Mrs. Fleming's house was on land belonging to Curtis Coolidge, and he sold it to Cally, his sister. Afterward she sold her place, and lived with her son, Joseph Coolidge.

The Town Pound stands at the head of what was called "Pound Hill." It was used much more than it is now.

Wright's was originally a Holbrook place,—Joshua Holbrook lived there, and afterwards Squire Dalton Goulding. He was a man of education and natural ability, a wonderfully easy talker. He was a surveyor too, and a good townsmen.

The next place on the other side was Capt. Louis Bickford's,§ a sea captain. Before he owned the place I do not know whose it was. I have an idea that it belonged to some of the Wares.

The next is the renowned Ware place. Squire Jo. Ware was a one-armed man, who lost his arm at the battle of White Plains. Professor Henry Ware, Sr., was born there. The house had formerly a gambrel roof, and there was a great elm there.

Mr. Saunders'|| place was the Braton Bullard place. Mr. Campbell's¶ was Vernal Barber's and the barn was opposite, where Frank Holbrook's** house is.

*Mr. Jas. Farricy.

†Scudder.

‡Mr. Page.

§Mr. Levine's.

||Mr. Pais's.

¶Chas. McCarthy's.

**Mrs. Porter's.

Mrs. Larkin's* house was some shop which was moved there. Mr. Nelson's house was Jim Holbrook's, a blacksmith. Later his son, Franklin, lived there; he was Mrs. Larkin's father. Web. Daniels' was a Coolidge house, Deacon Lowell Coolidge's father.

The old South schoolhouse was a brick one, and when my sister Harriet taught there I walked down there, being then seven years old. Jason Leland's house is a very ancient one. Mr. Johnson's† house is the Jo. Leland place. The Howe place is an old place; the family name was Death or Dearth. The Richards farm was a Hill place, Samuel Hill, then Charles Hill. George Mann's house was the Tom Breck place; his wife was a Sanger.

Between Mary Lizzie Ware's and the John S. Bullard place was the Elijah Hill place, which was burned down. Mary Lizzie Ware's was always a Ware place; there was an older house, farther back. The John Bullard place has been in the family a number of generations,—John Bullard, Daniel Bullard and John Bullard again having lived there. There was an older house, nearer the river, and here we come to the town line again on the south.

Such was old Sherborn sixty or more years ago, and such were the men and women of the olden time, a substantial lot of men and women.

*M. F. Campbell's.

†Geo. Hartherz's.



MEMORIES OF AN "OLD SETTLER"



REMEMBER when people had no cook stoves, but did all their work by the fire-place, with the cranes, hooks and trammels; and when they roasted the Thanksgiving turkey in a tin kitchen before the fire, and baked the Indian bannock on a board kept for the purpose held up before the fire with a flatiron. We banked up the fire every night. Father used to think that it required a man of good judgment to bank up a fire so it would be sure to keep; for if the wind blew and made a draft up the chimney, the fire would all burn out before morning, and if it was still and the fire was covered too deep it would go out. Then we had to depend on flint and steel or the tinder box. The tinder box was a tin case about eight or nine inches long and four or five wide. In this was kept a piece of steel with a hook on the end to hold it by. In the bottom were thicknesses of paper that were partly burned. Father used to use the flints which he took out of his musket. On training day each man had to have a new flint, so the old flints were put in the tinder box. We would strike the flint upon the steel, and the spark would go into the tinder.

We had matches that we made ourselves. We took a straight grained piece of pine about a foot long and split it with a hammer and butcher knife. Then we melted brimstone and dipped one end of a splinter into it. Then when we struck the spark in the tinder we touched one of these matches to it, and then we could set the kindling afire.

I remember running down to grandfather's sometimes to borrow a coal of fire, because the fire had gone out. I would take it by the unburned end and swing it round and round and run home like an athlete, and then with the bellows we could start it up.

Then take the mail facilities. A four-horse coach ran from Milford to Boston, down one day and back the next. I used to meet it when I was going to school about nine o'clock and the next night I would meet it going back about four o'clock. It took all the mail. When you mailed a letter the postage was determined by the distance the letter was to go. It was six cents for fifty miles, ten cents for a hundred. I used to send letters to Watertown for six cents, and to my cousins in New Hampshire for ten. The person who mailed the letter could pay the postage if he chose, and if he did the postmaster would put the amount paid in large figures on the outside with his quill pen. There were no stamps or envelopes. Letters were folded three cornered or any shape you chose. If the writer chose he could leave the postage to be paid by the person who received the letter. Nothing came in the mail but letters. No daily paper was taken here. Weekly papers were left at the store. Zibeon Hooker left some there, some at Captain Paul's, some at the store up town, and the rest he carried home for people to call for when they went to meeting Sunday.

As to currency, there were silver dollars, half dollars and quarters, nine-pences, fourpence-hapennies. If you went to a store and asked the price of anything, the storekeeper might say two and threepence, three and ninepence, or four and sixpence, but they kept their books and made their bills in dollars and cents. The old State Banks were in existence then, and people were afraid to take a bank bill issued by any bank out of the State of Massachusetts, because there was more or less discount on them. There was a bank note directory published every month, but nobody had them but the storekeepers. I have been over to Captain Clark's store often for my father, to see if a bill was good.

Rebecca's husband had a little store in the middle town of Framingham, and when he died they wanted I should settle up his affairs. His father, who was quite a business man, a land surveyor and a surveyor of roads, wanted to go into the store and sell out what was left of the goods, thinking he could get a better return than an auction would bring. So he did so, and I used to go over Saturdays to see how he was getting along. I went one day and when he counted out his money he said, "There is a two-dollar bill. I have passed that lots of times, and it was good as long as it would go. If a man came in here and I had to give it to him, I would tell him, 'Some say that isn't good; but if you have any trouble passing it, next time you want any goods I will take it.' So it has brought me lots of custom. But one day I accidentally put it into some money I was going to deposit in the bank, and it came back stamped 'counterfeit,'—spoiling the darn thing!"

Every piece of land that bordered on the road used to be fenced, because cattle were allowed to run on the roads. All front yards had to have two gates for driveways. At one time there was a town officer called a hog reeve to keep hogs off the street. They used to choose the latest married man for hog reeve. I have heard my father tell a story about Priest Brown, who was fond of a joke. At a town meeting soon after his second marriage some fellows nominated him for hog reeve for the fun of it, and he was elected. He got up and said he thanked them for tendering him the honor. He did not think they could get a man more fit for the office than he was, for he had had to control a company of hogs for twenty years.

There were watering places for cattle along the roads. There was a place just this side of where Ed. Smith lives, a rod wide clear down to the brook. There was another in Hunting Lane.

Not many men let their cattle go on the road, except that at morning and night they would turn them out for an hour. Squire Butler used to let his cow feed along the road, and I heard him tell about looking for it once, and when he found it there was a woman milking it. He went up quietly on the opposite side of the cow and pushed over the milk pail with his foot; but he would never tell who the woman was.

The old meeting-house was built perhaps two rods north of the present

one; there was a driveway between the two where they drove in to unload lumber while the new one was being built. The old meeting-house had two rows of windows, with small lights, and there was a porch at the rear of the church. That porch my father bought when the meeting-house was disposed of, and moved it to the rear of his house to make room for a flight of back stairs. There were square pews, and a gallery on the south side only. The porch was two stories, and had an entrance to the gallery. The square pews had seats on three sides; and my father's pew, under the south gallery, had a seat (perhaps they all did) across the door. I remember one day it got unfastened and swung out into the aisle, and dropped me off, in meeting time.

When the meeting-house was torn down, I was at school in the old Academy building. The spire timbers were partly sawed off, I suppose,—at any rate, the top of it, as far as the bell-deck, was pulled over. The weather vane was an acorn with three or four leaves, gilded. The spire was pulled over towards where the town house stands, and the acorn broke off and flew down toward the schoolhouse. We boys ran and got it, but did not know what to do with it. Finally somebody proposed putting it into the teacher's desk. We got it in the desk, but could not shut the lid. While we were about it "Old Ball" came in. He caught me by the collar, "snaked" me off the platform, and ordered us to carry it out. We did so, and what we did with it I do not know.

Everybody went to church every Sunday, though there was no way to make any fire. Whole families came from the farthest parts of the town, hired men and maids and all. At noon some of them would go out on the south side of the church and eat their doughnuts or crackers and cheese or pie. Three horse sheds stood on the Common, down toward where the Academy building is now; these were open toward the south, and men who had their horses in there would go down there and sit in the sleighs and talk about the cattle and so forth. There were three more sheds down back of where our sheds are now; some would go down there. The old men would go down to Col. Sanger's store. There was an afternoon service, and a Sunday School between the two. It was a pretty long day for the children.

The pulpit was high, with quite a flight of stairs each side, and doors to shut; the minister would go in and shut himself in. On the floor of the pulpit there were three square blocks of wood: these were for the preacher to stand on. Priest Clark did not need them. We boys would go in there at noon and put them all three in place, and he would have to take them away. There was a big sounding-board over the pulpit, and backed up against the front of the pulpit were seats for the deaf old men. They would sit there and sleep all through the service.

The women and girls, when the sun shone, would eat their lunch by the south windows. I do not remember much about the choir; I sat right under

the gallery so I could not see them. But I remember Capt. Eli Leland, who played the bass viol. John Coombs was one of the bass singers.

The church bell was cast by Holbrook of Medway. Old Squire Goulding told me that Holbrook said he put fifty silver dollars into the bell-metal, to give it a good tone. The bell was brought over and left on the Common, close to the meeting-house, for the people to test it. They gave us school-boys the chance to ring it at noon when school was out, and then they took out the tongue so it could not be rung. It stood there perhaps a week before it was raised into place.



THE COUNTRY CHOIR



UR town has, I think, always furnished her full quota of musicians, both vocal and instrumental. About the first remembrance I have of church music was here in Sherborn, at the White Church, the scene laid about 1848. Then the minister was at one end of the church and the singers at the other; then they worshiped and praised the Lord all day on the Sabbath; then the choir consisted of all that could sing, and some that couldn't; then it was considered an honor to sit in the choir, no matter whether they could sing or not. They all counted one until called upon to sing some solo or duet in the absence of the leading singers; then they proved to be ciphers.

The country choir was usually led by stringed instruments. The Sherborn players at that time were William and Elbridge Sanger and Emlyn Leland, who played violins, more commonly called fiddles; Malachi Babcock, violoncello; Moses C. Babcock, double-bass viol. There were others at different times. I remember a man playing the flute; and I recall Capt. Eli Leland, when an old gentleman, coming down, no matter how hard it rained, to play the violoncello. How artistic the playing was I am unable to tell, but I heard Emlyn Leland say that he could play just as well with his book upside down! I recollect watching these musicians rehearse, during the noon hour, for the afternoon performance.

In case these were absent, the tune was "pitched" by the chorister. I remember Orrin Ranlett as chorister,—a tenor, and a good one. After the hymn was given out and read, the tune was played through; at the end of each verse the last line was played as an interlude. At the singing of the last hymn the congregation rose and faced the music. Of the choristers Elbridge Sanger served twenty-five years. He was followed by F. W. Cushing, who led, through thick and thin, for twenty-five years more.

At the advent of the pipe-organ, in the early fifties, these performers were put out of commission. I suspect they felt as if the service wouldn't be complete without their instruments, but they soon became reconciled to the change. Of course there were different opinions of the new organ: one lady said she would as lief hear it thunder. The organ was built and set up by a Mr. Stevens of East Cambridge: it was considered a very good organ for what it cost. Rev. Mr. Dowse's society installed their organ several years earlier, with Frederick Leland as organist for a long time.

The old-time singing-school, which has become wholly extinct, furnished the material and fitted the singers for the choirs. We had schools both summer and winter. A. H. Leland taught a number; also Mr. Tilden of Medfield, O. B. Bullard of Holliston, Mr. Hartshorn of Ashland, and others. There was also a glee club, composed of members of both choirs, led by Augustus Leland, furnishing the singing at the annual May festivals.

By way of variety also we maintained an orchestra, consisting of violin, cornet, clarinet, and piano, which was quite in demand to play at fairs, high school exhibitions, dramatic entertainments, etc.; and if anyone wished to trip the light fantastic toe we tried to accommodate them there.

Soon after the Civil War some one conceived the idea of holding a mammoth Peace Jubilee in Boston. Invitations were sent out to musicians and singers everywhere to form musical societies and join the great chorus. The two choirs here held a meeting in April, 1869, and formed the Sherborn Musical Association, which continued for ten years or more. Dr. Geo. W. Dennett was president, Dr. Albert H. Blanchard secretary, Miss Isabella B. Cushing organist, Augustus H. Leland and F. W. Cushing first and second leaders. The members were: sopranos, Mrs. A. H. Blanchard, Mrs. Rose Everett, Miss Myra Butterfield, Mrs. Abbie M. Taber, Miss Jennie Sanford, Miss Barton; altos, Mrs. Henry Howe, Miss Mary C. Everett, Miss Caribel Bullard, Miss Mary Ann Coolidge, Mrs. Sarah E. Sanford, Miss Isabella B. Cushing; tenors, Augustus H. Leland, Wm. P. Green, A. A. Forbes, Ira B. Forbes, Elbridge M. Bickford, T. A. Butler, F. W. Cushing; bass, Henry Howe, Dr. A. H. Blanchard, Dr. G. W. Dennett, Frank E. Hooker. We first met in the Chapel, so-called, for a while, and afterward in the anteroom of the vestry of Pilgrim Church: if you go in there now, you will almost hear some of the strains of "Thanks be to God" and the "Hallelujah Chorus" reverberating around the ceiling. These singers served as part of the great chorus during the five days of the Jubilee, and again in the second Jubilee of 1872.

The Sherborn Musical Association gave the first Old Folks' Concert ever held in Sherborn. They sang at the dedication of Sawin Academy in Sept., 1874, among the selections being an appropriate hymn composed by Dr. Dennett. We had the distinction of holding together longer than any similar society in this part of the state.

THE "SHERBURNE BAND" OF 1839



HE journal of this early musical organization still exists, and from its pages these notes have been compiled.

"Dec. 18, 1838, the undersigned met at the hall of Daniel Leland & Son in Sherborn, for the purpose of forming themselves into a musical Band. Daniel Leland, Jr., was chosen moderator, Bowen Adams secretary.

"Daniel Leland, Jr.
Bowen Adams
Frederick Leland

Orrin J. Randlett
Henry Partridge
William Leland 3d

Henry W. Bullard
Moses C. Babcock
Amos Leland

Wm. P. Green	Emlyn Leland	Luther Broad, Jr.
Abner M. Leland	Hamlet Barber	Willard Broad
Benjamin W. Leland	Seth C. Hawes	Addison Boyden
Alfred A. Leland	James C. Austin	Willard G. Flagg
Augustus Leland	William Sanger	James Salisbury”

The journal does not tell, but Mr. Joseph Dowse remembered that Frederick Leland, William Leland and Henry Bullard played the bugle, Abner Leland the cornet, Orrin Randlett and Benjamin Leland the clarinet, Augustus Leland the fife, Henry Partridge, James Austin and William Green the trombone, Bowen Adams the drum, Moses Babcock the bass drum, and James Salisbury the cymbals. Surely it argues much spirit and energy in the little town that twenty-four men were found ready and able to join in such a band.

This initial meeting went on to choose Col. Seth C. Hawes to be the master of the band, Frederick and Augustus Leland first and second leaders, Daniel Leland treasurer and Bowen Adams clerk. A committee was appointed to prepare by-laws; and finally it was “voted, that the *symballs* be the property of the Sherburn Band,” which seems to indicate that the other instruments were already owned by individuals.

The report of the treasurer to the first annual meeting, Jan. 6, 1840, records the receipt of \$12.06 “for concert at Natick,” and \$13.50 “for the services of the Band at Medway.” The next year he reports money received from concert at Canton \$3.37, at Stoughton \$7.46, at South Dedham \$25.00, South Natick, \$8.38, at Unionville \$1.41; “for the services of the Band at the Sherborn Temperance Celebration, \$25.00; and “from the Whig ladies of Sherborn, as a present, 75c.” And in the clerk’s record of the annual meeting of January, 1842, appears a vote “that the Newton money be spent for a bass *drumb*, and that the Band own it,” which shows that our Sherburne Band could hold its own in towns “down below.”

In 1842, \$50 was “received for services of the Band at Worcester,” “at Framingham” \$30, and “at Roxbury” \$75.00. The total receipts of that year were \$160.77. No mention is anywhere made of uniform: no doubt each member provided his own. One suit at least was long preserved—a black tail-coat trimmed with gold braid, and a cap to match.

One more annual meeting was held, but the journal records no more appearances at concerts or celebrations, and apparently the band ended its active career with the triumphs of 1842. Capt. Adams’ daughter, Mrs. Dowse, remembered that once in her childhood there was a reunion of the members at her father’s house, and that she helped serve the good dinner which her mother prepared for them. Captain Adams to the end of his life cherished the drum which he had played in the band (which now rests in our collection) and liked nothing better than to put on the uniform coat when his grandchildren visited him, bring out the drum, and show that he could still play the “long roll.”

THE SHERBORN CORNET BAND

In the late fall of 1864 several young men of Sherborn met for the study and rehearsal of instrumental and martial music. We organized under the name of the Sherborn Cornet Band, Geo. A. Leland being chosen leader, J. Eames clerk, and E. P. Hartshorn teacher and director.

We first met in a vacant room which is now used for the post-office. (The post-office at that time was in the building opposite Unity Hall.) We afterwards met in the Chapel (which stood on the northeast corner of the meeting-house common) and later in the Town Hall.

The band made good progress, as leading parts were taken by those of some experience, and could soon handle most of the music arranged for such bands. They furnished music for entertainments, fairs, picnics, etc. They also serenaded newly married couples: the ministers of both societies, Rev. William Brown and Rev. Edmund Dowse, were among the number.

The first concert given by the band was on March 24, 1865, with twenty pieces, as follows: Geo. A. Leland, E clarinet; L. S. Bridges, F. Whittemore, E cornet; J. Eames, R. Frail, W. R. Bigelow, B cornet; J. A. Cleale, E. M. Bickford, G. H. Hooker, alto; L. A. Leland, Frank Bigelow, B. A. Burbeck, tenor; W. P. Green, B. F. Wyman, baritone; Geo. W. Leland, B bass; F. W. Cushing, E. Morse, E bass; Erastus Leland, bass drum; G. T. Jones, side drum; Frank Hooker, cymbals.

A band-stand was erected on the Common, for open-air concerts. The concert given on August 8, 1866, when we were assisted by the Hopkinton Brass Band, was much enjoyed by the people.

Several members left town after a time and it was difficult to fill their places, and meetings were discontinued, though no vote to disband was ever passed.



EARLY INDUSTRIES

SHOEMAKING



Early days the shoes of a New England family were made by an itinerant cobbler, who went from house to house, carrying his tools, and making or mending as the family needs required. Calvin Sparhawk was the last of these cobblers in this section, practicing his trade till about 1850.

Lemuel Leland (called familiarly "Slipper Lem," in distinction from another Lemuel, the gunsmith) lived in the southwest part of the town, and in the first third of the last century carried on a considerable business in making and mending for the people in the borders of Sherborn, Holliston, and Medway. An old ledger gives a notion of his business and his prices:

"Oct. 1821.	to Making shoes for boy	\$1.08
	to footing Boots for you	2.67
Mch. 1822.	horse seven miles	.42
	to mending for wife	.62
Jan. 1824.	to making for wife	1.50
Feb.	to making Boots	3.25"

Most of the shoes made in Sherborn for export were heavy "brogans" or plow shoes, for the Southern trade. The sides were sewed by hand, and the lining, made of sheepskin, was put in by women in their homes. Putting in the lining was called "binding" the shoe. These shoes were pegged, and it is worth while to remember that shoe-pegs were invented by a man in Hopkinton, then a part of Sherborn. In early days the finished shoes were taken to Boston and bartered for leather; later the goods were sent direct to dealers.

There were a number of small shoe shops in the town,—little buildings, standing in a door-yard, where not more than two or three men could work. Curtis Coolidge had one, and trained a number of apprentices, some of whom afterward had shops of their own. Emlyn Sparhawk had a shop, and Smith Coolidge, and perhaps others.

The larger shops were those of Nathaniel Dowse, James and Joseph Bullard, and Lowell Coolidge. Nathaniel Dowse had been a whip-maker in early life, and for some years after he began to manufacture shoes he used the little shop at the rear of his house; but in 1859 he built a three-story shop at the head of the triangle between Main and Coolidge Streets. At times this shop employed as many as fifteen workers. At first all was hand work; then a stitching machine run by hand was introduced, and later other machines run by hand or foot power.

Lowell Coolidge was one of those who learned the trade from Curtis

Coolidge. He was in company with Nathaniel Dowse from 1849 to 1854, when he built a large shop near his home, and carried on the work there, having twelve workers. His son, William H. Coolidge, continued the business after the death of his father. The last shoes made in Sherborn were made by him in 1908.

THE WILLOW INDUSTRY



BOUT the year 1855 a willow business was started in Sherborn by John Fleming, a retired pastor of the Unitarian church. He had four brothers settled in the town, with their families; these brothers had been brought up in that business in England, and were all employed by him. For several years he carried on a large business, and besides supplying the Boston market had customers in many parts of New England.

The Flemings fashioned a great many kinds of articles, such as cradles, baby carriages, clothes baskets, market baskets, bakers' baskets, counter baskets, lunch baskets, hampers, bassinets, work baskets, dolls' cradles, and others of various shapes and sizes. For some years they had a large business in baby carriages alone, both those made wholly of willow and those with willow body and enamel top. All these goods were transferred to the town of Natick by the good old-fashioned stage-coach, and from there to Boston by train. It was a unique sight to see the coach filled with passengers passing through the town, with the baskets tied to and hanging from the back and top, swaying to and fro with its motion.

After some years Mr. Fleming was asked to join a friend named Wakefield in a venture in rattan work. He did not feel that he could do this; but the development of the rattan industry (in the town afterward named Wakefield) absorbed Mr. Fleming's carriage work and some other of the coarser lines of his business; but he still retained the market for the finer work, and he and his brothers worked at it as long as they lived. It was an active business in the town for nearly forty years.

[The Dowses were a family of leather-dressers, the trade having been followed by several successive generations. In the early eighteen hundreds, the three brothers, Benjamin, Joseph and Nathaniel Dowse, specialized in the manufacture of whips, and the two older brothers continued the trade for many years, Mr. Nathaniel Dowse turning later to the manufacture of shoes. The whip business declined with the passing of the stage-coach; but whips were braided in Sherborn as late as 1876. The following description of this early industry is condensed from a paper prepared by Miss Alice M. Dowse.—Eds.]



EARS ago, before railroads were known, and when stage-coaches were the usual means of travel, an important industry flourished in Sherborn. As the times changed the industries changed also, and the making of stage-coach whips, to which I refer, has become entirely obsolete.

It took a great deal of skill to make a whip from fifteen to twenty-five feet long, that could be swung around and made to hit any horse at will. These whips used by coach drivers had a wooden stock, as it was called, about three feet long, and a braided leather lash, from twelve to twenty feet long.

In most of these old-time industries, they bought the raw material. In the case of whip-making, they bought the old horses, killed and skinned them, and tanned the leather, not trusting any other tannery to prepare the hides. Then the cutter began his work.

As the lashes were braided, the strips took up almost half in the braiding, so that a piece must be cut nearly twice as long as the lash was to be. It was not thought right to have two pieces sewed together, because "it wouldn't balance right." Then how could they get a twenty-five foot strip from one hide? The cutter started cutting a strip, about two inches wide, from the head end of the hide. He cut back and forth, lengthwise, from the hide, until he estimated that he had cut two-thirds of the lash. Of course the strip narrowed as he went along. Then the cutter made a "bulge" to weight the lash, and then the strip grew gradually narrower to the end. Then this wide strip was cut into narrow strands to be braided. A hole was cut in the wide end of the strip and it was hung on a strong hook in the wall. Now with a very sharp knife the cutter would stand and hold his hands around the leather, the knife pointing upward and his thumbs guiding it. Only the skillful and experienced worker could do this. Then the narrow strands were braided in a spiral braid; and when an experienced worker had braided as far as the bulge, the bulge in all the strands met at the same point.

In every whip shop there were needed two slabs of marble. One would be placed on a table and sprinkled with powdered chalk. The braided lash was placed on this, and rolled back and forth with the other slab. The chalk helped fill the spaces and make the lash perfectly round.

The last thing was to fasten the braided lash to the stock, which was made of hickory. A piece of pliable buckskin was pulled through the hole

which had been made in the wide end of the lash, and was drawn down on each side of the stock. Strong linen thread was then wound over the buck-skin, and fastened with a peculiar knot that would never come undone.

After railroads were built, and stage-coaches were used less and less in the East, the industry dwindled away. It was about sixty years ago that the last order came, from Minnesota, where they were still using stage-coaches. Later than this, whips shorter than the stage-coach whips, but similar, were made for driving oxen, and also for driving two pair of horses.

GUN-MAKING



EMUEL LELAND, the first gunsmith in Sherborn, was my grandfather. His home was on the main street, the second house north of the "stone shop" (formerly Partridge's shop), and his gun-shop stood between the house and the brook. The shop was later made into a house, then removed to Lake Street, and finally destroyed by fire.

Lemuel Leland was twice married. He had two sons by his first marriage, only one living to manhood; by his second marriage he had seven sons, six living to manhood. I do not know much about his gun-making, but I have heard members of the family speak of his apprentices, so I suppose he taught the trade to others beside his sons.

The oldest of the group of six boys was William Leland, my father, born in 1817, who followed the business of gun-making with his father. He was married in 1839, and lived in his father's house till 1843, when he moved to West Sherborn, having purchased what was known as the "widow's thirds" of the Babcock farm, the place where I now live.

Here I remember my father making new guns and repairing old ones. He used to work for Boston firms, they sending the material out to him,—the barrels, the stocks, usually of black walnut wood, and the trimmings of brass or steel. It was quite a job to make a gun, filing the barrels to smoothness, working the wood down to the proper shape with shaves, files, and sandpaper, and fitting the trimmings and other parts into the wooden stocks. I remember his bringing the barrels into the house in cold weather, and putting them near the fire to dry the dressing on them.

His repairing business was considerable in those days, guns coming to him from quite a distance. Many times our yard would be full of teams, whose owners were waiting for their work to be finished.

I can remember hearing him tell of changing the old flintlock guns into those with tubes and caps. After breech-loading guns came into use, he did

not try to repair them, his health not being good and his sight somewhat dim. At his death in 1888, he left several single guns of his making, and a rifle he made for himself.

CIDER-MAKING

N the early days in Sherborn there was a cider mill at every house or at least at every neighborhood in town. The first presses were screwed down by hand on alternate layers of ground apples and rye straw. Some of the cider was purified for drinking, a great deal of it was drunk without being purified, and the rest was made into vinegar. There were several methods of purifying: the simplest was to "rack" the cider, or pour it from one barrel into another several times, each time leaving the impurities to settle to the bottom. Another method was to use isinglass, on which the impurities would collect, leaving the cider clear. The last "glassed" cider made in town was made by John Ives about fifty years ago at the house now owned by Luke Henderson.

At the Holbrook cider mill the cider was refined by "leaching" or straining it through a thick bed of fine white sand. This cider was so pure that it could be and was shipped across the ocean; unless the cider is very pure the motion of the ship will cause it to work and burst the barrels. The Holbrook cider business which later became the largest refined cider business in the world was started in 1853 by Jonathan Holbrook. At first he made about 150 barrels a season, but as horsepower replaced hand, and steam replaced horsepower, by 1868, 6,000 barrels were made. At that time a survey was made for a railroad passing through the west part of the town. Mr. Holbrook was much interested and would be much benefited if the railroad passed near his mill so he had another survey made at his own expense. When it was found that this route would be a half mile shorter and \$50,000 cheaper it was adopted and the road was built where it is now, directly through the center of Sherborn and past the cider mill. With greater ease of shipping due to the railroad, business increased, until in the years 1895, 1896 and 1897 over 40,000 barrels a season were produced.

After a fire in 1909 Eben M. Holbrook, son of Jonathan Holbrook and the last surviving member of the firm of J. Holbrook & Sons, sold out to M. H. Rourke of Natick, who sold in 1912 to P. McCarthy & Son, who now make cider and bottled soda at this location. Other good-sized cider mills in town were the Salisbury mill, opposite the post-office, which was burned about twenty-five years ago, C. A. Clark's mill, now Fred J. Dingley's place, Leland Brothers, at the farm now owned by Daniel L. Whitney and occupied by Ernest Tucy, and many others. At present the only cider mill besides McCarthy's is that of Harvey E. Davis, which has been run about sixty years.

EXTRACTS FROM TOWN AND "GENERAL COURT" RECORDS

1674—At a General Court held at Boston, Oct. 7,—“In answer to the Petition of the Inhabitants and proprietors of Land near Bogestow, Oct. 21, granted the Petitioners the quantity of Six miles square, not exceeding eight miles in length, And the name of the Town to be called Shearborn.”

1674-5, Jan.—“Asembled for the ordering the afairs of Sherborn . . . Georg Fairbank, Thomas Eames, Thomas Holbrook, and Obediah Morse were chosen and deputed to take a view of the Land for Laying out of the Court’s Grant.”

Mar.—“Ensign Bullen, Thomas Eames, Daniell Morse, Sen., and Daniell Morse, Jr., ar desired and deputed to take a view of natick land for the exchange with them, in perfecting of the lines and bounds of the place”

1676, Jan.—“Then chose Obadiah Morse to keep the records of Sherborn.”

“It is ye mind and desire of ye inhabitants that Captayn Fisher should be treated with that he would be helpfull orr undertake the settlement of the plantation. Daniell Morse, Sen. is chosen to provide for and intertayne the comity at ther coming.”

1677-2-13—“They have chosen henry lealand to agree with thomas thurston to measure the land that is to be exchanged betwene Sherborn and natick.”

3-9—“ . . . it was voted and agreed on that ye place intended for a meeting house should be on a parcell of land joynig orr bordering upon the land of nicholas wood and Cap. Hull’s farme.”

“. . . . it was voted and concluded that propositions should be made to Major googing and Mr. Eliot and to the indians in referring to the exchange of land betweene natick and Sherborn.”

3-26—“In consideration of damages done in the seader swamps belonging to Sherborn by some in other townes . . . it was agreed on and an order made . . . that if any person fall downe any or carry away any of the seader timber belonging to Sherborn to any other towne, they shall pay twenty shillings to the use of the towne for every sutch offence. Also that none of the inhabitants of Sherborn shall sell any of ther seader timber out of the towne with out order first from sutch men as are apoynted to take care about it, upon penalty of 5s a tree or the valer of it soaled out of the towne.”

7 mo.—“If any of the inhabitants shall neglect to atend the towne meetings apoynted, and being warned of it, shall be under the peanalty of three shillings and four pence for every sutch offence.”

8-26—“Then was consultation and consideration in way of preparation for a Minister”

11-1—“It was voted and concluded conserning the adition to the ten rates at Meadfield now called for by ther constables from us, that we will stand as one to deny it and to bear equall charge if distres be made on any particluar person.”

1678-11-1—“Voted that five men be chosen as selectmen, Daniell Morse, Sen., Georg Fairbank, Edward West, Thomas Eames, Obadiah Morse.”

“Voted and concluded that the first-second day of ye week in January should be from year to year held to be a publiq meeting for the publiq afairs of Sherborn.”

1679—“Resolves of the People,” or Social Compact adopted.

1-14—All swine allowed to run on common land to be “yoaked and ringed” . . . owners not complying fined,—if no owners appear “to impound them.”

Articles of agreement between Natick and Sherborn, signed, reserving 12 acres “at a place called Brush Hill” to Peter Ephraim.

“Sherborn granteth to sutch as shall make a saw mill on a brook about half a mile on this side the corner rock that was natick bounds the sum of fifty acres of

upland adjoyning that brook, and 3 or 4 acres of meadow if it may be found near that brooke . . . also 10 acres of swamp the seader timber excepted, and this saw mill to be built by the end of twelve months time, the time this saw mill shall be continued three years time, or as the Selectmen then in being and the owners shall agree, so the land to be settled to the owners."

7-18—" . . . conserning the place they have determined for the settled place for the meeting house . . . the place voted and therby determined on a hill. Mr. the comity and the inhabitants made a second stand to look about on that account near Edward's plain."

8-13—"Voted that a twelve acre lot shall be the lowest that shall be granted for a home lott and 30 A. the hiest."

" . . . in referance to the setling of the minister it was voted and concluded that we shall pay to the mayntinance of the minister forty pounds by year . . . , twenty pound in money and twenty pound in good country pay as most suitable to the minister, and to build a suitable house."

8-29—"Then was chosen four men to be undertakers orr overseers in building A suitable house forr a minister, . . . these to call others to assist in that work as they shall se meet and as men are capiable to help."

11-29—"Thomas Sawin is accepted as one of the new inhabitants at chestnut brooke to take up a first lot as may be convenient for the building a saw mill on it."

Feb. 2—"And concerning the ministers house that is to be built its voted and concluded that it shall be built . . . the length 38 foot, the breadth 20 foot"

"It was also agreed that the place concluded upon by the comity for the Meeting House near edwards plain be reserved for the accomodation thereof to the quantity of 20 rods square."

Feb. 9—"Thomas Eames to procure 5000 ft. boards, making brick and building chimnies, and stoning the sellar, underpinning the house for the minister's house."

1680, June 2—" . . . the inhabitants did then agree . . . and engadg to lay down of ther lands forr needful hieways for the use of the towne, and to choose a comity to lay them out."

Oct. 12—"Reckoned with Thomas Sawin for his work about the Meeting House for framing, providing Boards, Shingles and Clapboards and making Windows and Doors according to bargain..... £50-0-0
for Boards and his work laying the Floor..... .3-0-0"

1681, Apr. 29—Articles of Agreement signed with Rev. Daniel Gookin.

May 30—"Voted that ye money for ye attaining a towne stock of Amunitio (according to the law and comittes report) shall be raised."

July 4—"George Fairbank resigns from Sherborn."

8-27—"Voted by the Inhabitants that there shall be a division of . . . common land If our honored comity approve of it."

The Com., Thomas Savage, John Richards, Wm. Stoughton, recommended "that the common land be first divided into 4 parts, "to lye to eatch quarter of the town according as they shall find it most convenient as to vicinity, respect being had to the quality of the land that there may be equality as much as may be, then eatch quarter or squadron of the town to divide their part amongst themselves by lot,"

1682, Jan.—"Also the constables and some of the Selectmen that were assistance to the constables, this day being attached for the Illegall taking a horse as part of what was due from Georg fairbanke to the minister's maintenance.

It was voted by the towne that we shall bear them out in their charges in the first sute, which is to be 12 of the ps month."

"Chosen A comity to p'fect the hieways . . . who shall call the Inhabitants to worke

or pay ther p't sometime in the year when sutch work may best be done . . . and shall Allow to a man forr a day's work 2 shillings; forr 4 oxen A man and carrt 5s, and 2 oxen A man and cart 4s ye day."

"Also propositions being made to the towne by Thomas Holbrook for a small p'cell of land near wheare the meeting house is to stand, for to set a house and to have yard forr convenency on Sabath dayes, the answer of the town was to leave it to the selectmen."

June 8—"And then was chosen 4 men as surveyors for the mending and making nedfull wayes in Shearborn, the men chosen, John Hill for that corner of the towne; John Death for that corner of the towne; Jonathan Whitney for the playne and that part of the towne; Daniell Morse forr his farme; and they to call their severall quarters to help as nede may be."

1683—First highways laid out.

Jan. 7—"Joseph Morse to take 14 A of land between Mr. Hul's farm and Eleazer Wood's farm in Compensation for the use of his house for to meet in, the time that the town made use of it."

Thomas Sawin "to seat the meeting house and make the pulpit and the first set of Galleries, seated fully fit to use for it, the lower seats and ye pulpit to be finisht at or before the last of May next, the Galleries to be finisht against the town stand in need of them, with stairs to goe up to them."

1684, May 17—"In answer to the petition of Tho. Holbrooke, Edward West, selectmen for the towne . . . , it is ordered that the grant of land unto the inhabitants and others at or near Boggestow shall be and hereby is confirmed unto them." [Natick exchange land] ". . . and it is ordered that the name of the towne be Sherborne." G. C. Rec.

May 27—"Also then was voted that al the land between the house lot of Mr. Gookin and Edward West to the way called Eames way and to the way leading from Mr. Huls farm to the plain past the Meeting House, except about the meeting house is set apart for the ministry. As also that tract of land between Jonathan Whitney and Benoni Learned on the Rocky hil on the back side of sd Whitney's house, and that land Northward of Benoni Learneds land al that is comon between Nath. Morse, John perry, Dannie Morse highway and Hill on the plain is stated for a scole for ever."

Lt. Ed. West, Obadiah Morse, Thomas Reed, Jonathan Whitney, Jno. Fay, and Jno. Coller are appointed a committee to lay out highways leading from Sudbury, Sherborn, Marlborough and Framingham and the Falls as may be most convenient for the accomodition of travelers from Town to Town, both man and beast."

1685, Jan.—*Voted yt Mr. Gookin's sallery shall be augmented ten pound by year in country pay provided he keep a lecture every month, to begin ye next rate."

1694, Mar. 7—Voted "that the pound shall be set upon that place at the —— of the causey against Mr. Gookin's land."

June 4—"Edward West chose scol master for Sherborne."

July 11—"Jonathan Whitney, Sr. chose Pound Keeper."

Voted "to choose A comity of five men to take circumference of that land that Tho. Eames lived on formerly which is included in the exchange of land between Shearborne and Natick . . . , and also to Answer the Indians with so much land at the uper end of our towne bounds as that shall be or to satisfaction."

*Note. A petition dated Mar. 19, 1684, was discovered in London by Professor Stowe "for the pecuniary Incouragement of the Pastor at Sherborn, Mr. Gookin, son of Maj. Gookin," for lecturing regularly to the people, an interpreter translating his words to the Indians." Sixteen Indian names were signed, among them the older Waban, Thomas Waban, and Daniel Takawampbait.

1695, Mar. 14—Benoni Learned chosen “Clark of the Market.”

Apr. 4—“This meeting is Ajourned untill the next lecture day after lecture, 17 Instant Aprill, that the towne may the better consider in what way to Answer the Indians for the exchang of land, and raysing of the ten pounds in money.”

1696, Mar.—“In answer to a request of our Reverend pastor, Mr. Daniell Gookin, to explain and confirm the prices of graine to be paied in his sallery, because it was in our covenant to be paied as it passed from man to man.

The answer of the towne is that the price of grain shall be 5s a bushell for wheat, 4s a bushell for ry, and Indian at 3s a bushell, all to be merchantable; and those that canot pay in corne ther corne part, to pay that corne part in money, without abatement.”

1700, July 11—Part of Sherborn annexed to Framingham.

1701, May 19—“Then was granted Ten Pounds and Sixteen shillings in money to pay Deacon Morse who Represented sd Towne of Sherborne at the Great and Generall Court in ye yeare 1700.”

July 14—Com. chosen to appear at the Gt. and Gen. Ct. “in reference to their Township and rights of Lands &c.”

“Joseph Sherman of Watertown, Surveyor, with all convenient speed to take and compleat a true and Plaine Plott of the Township of Sherborne, so farr as is needfull of all those Rights of Land granted to the first Inhabitants, and those since purchased by Exchange with the Indians of Natick so as it may be in Readyness . . to present to the Court at their next session.

1704, Mar.—Voted “The Adition of one to that commity chosen to run lines between the farmers and the town comons, it being soposed that Tho. Holbrook Sr. not capiable by reason of his sickness and adge.”

“Also agreed with Nathaniel Morse to rectifie the pound as speedily as may be.”

1705, Mar. 6—John Holbrook chosen “Sealer of lether.”

1707, Mar. 17—“Then it was voted that if any of the Inhabitants of Sherborn shall take Cattel from any other Town to feed on our comon land shal pay five shillings per head for each cattel.”

May 29—“ . . . 5s per head, the one moiety there of to the field driver or party so taking up such cattel, and the other moiety thereof to the Selectmen of sd Town for the use thereof.”

1708, Aug. 18—“Then was chosen and appointed Widdow Mary West to take care of and keepe ye Pound In sd Town.”

1710, Oct. 23— . . . “now in the time of the Revd. Ministers restraint by ilness . . . Voated to hire a Minister while March next . . . that Mr. Baker be the man to supply Mr. Gookin’s Pulpit . . . if he may be attained.

Bounds between Sherborn and Framingham established.

1711, Jan. 14—Com. chosen “to take care about what is subscribed towards the Building for Mr. Baker, that it be regularly and orderly performed.”

Nov. 8—“Received of Benoni Learned, Town Treas. twenty Shillings for my care of the meeting house in the year 1710. I say Received by me.

Mary West.”

1715—4000 A. Granted to Sherborn in compensation for loss of 17 families to Framingham, and provision made for dividing it by drawing lots, “Called Sherburn New Grant,” “Westward of Mendon.” [Now Douglas.]

“Cost [of surveying above land] amounting to the sum of about ten pounds one way or another, old Mr. Ebenezer Hill appeared (His lott falling well) and freely undertook to pay off and Satisfy the Comittee and Surveyor for their services.”

1716, Mar. ye 11—"Received of the Town Treas. 2£ 17s for killing three Woulves. I say received by me.

John Hill, Junr."

1717, Aug. 30—Com. chosen to take a view of 3000A granted to the town, adjacent to the 4000 A.

Mch. ye 8—"Received of Deacon Learned ye Town Treas. twenty Shillings for Sweeping ye Meeting House and locking the doors for ye year 1715. I say received by me.

Mary West."

1718, Sept. 26—Com. chosen to protect "timber at Badluck Cedar Swamps within ye late Grant of 3000 A."

1720-1, Feb. 20—Petition presented to build "a new meeting house at dirty meadow bridge or to set off that part of town."

1721, Mar. 6—Hog reeves chosen.

Apr. 3—Com. chosen "to go out and take a view of the land proposed to be purchased, lying contiguous to ye 7000 A westward of Mendon."

1721-2, Feb. 5—"The affairs and Concern of ye publick meeting house in Sherborn being long debated,—Voted by the Inhabitants of ye s'd Town that money be rais'd by way of Rate upon 'em (sufficient with the old meeting house) to build a new meeting house Within and upon the Spot of land that the Town formerly Set apart and granted for ye place and accomodation of a Meeting house near or upon ye place, of the old meeting house is now standing.

1722-3, Mar. 6—"Voted that the Inhabitants Immediately remove from the meeting house to the place namely seventy or six score Rods easterly from Dirty meadow Bridge and try the voters there." Removed to the spot and voted to build there "upon a certain hill by the Road side and on the north side of the Road that Leadeth to Sherborn meeting house. . . .

Nov. 18—Voted "to nullifie and make void [above vote] in consideration that the Form and Situation of the Town is so ill Convenient that one Meeting house Cannot be so placed as to Suit the Whole town, but that in time there will be need of two to accommodate the Inhabitants. Voted to Build a Meeting House upon or near the spot where the Old Meeting House is standing and whatever materials about the old meeting house are serviceable to be used in ye said work."

1724, Dec. 3—West part of Sherborn established as Holliston.

1727, Dec. 29—"Then was a Vote passed to Build a School house and to set it on the meeting house common on the Southerly side of the meeting house."

1728, Apr. 16—Com. chosen "to sell ye School Land towards defraying the charge of building School house."

1732, May 24—"And the Town Declined sending a Representative this year."

Dec. 8—"Granted that ten Shillings be assessed in the next Town rate to repair the old or build new Stocks."

1733—Town "Doomed for Not sending a representative."

1735, Sept. 22—Voted "to Indemnify and save harmless the widow and heirs at law of the Rev. Mr. Daniel Baker Deceased from all cost and charge which may arise concerning the support of said negro man servant in case he fall into Decay and stands in need during his life time."

This negro, named Will, was manumitted and made free when he should arrive at the age of 40 yrs. by Mr. Baker "by writting in his life time."

1739, Sept. 14—"Then was Granted ye sum of Three pound to provide a Wine Gallon and a wine quart to be kept as town Standards as ye law directs.

Nov. 30—"Arthur Clark and Benj. Muzzey to enform of breaches of the Law relating to the Deer."

1741, May 20—"Granted to mend the Old Pound for the present, and to build a New one the sum of 6£."

1742—"Then the Town did select a Number of men for Jurors, whose names ware put into the Boxes as the Law Directs."

1745, Mar. 4—"Then the Town voted that the Selectmen should procure a Burying Cloath at the Town's cost."

1749, Oct.—"Then a vote was asked whither the women should sit with their chairs in the alleys of the meeting house and it passed in the negative."

"Then it was voted that the Selectmen should make some alterations in the seats of the meeting house for the conveniance of the women."

1749-50, Mar. 5—"Then were chosen Joseph Perry, Richard Sanger and Nathaniel Perry, Jr. to be a comittee to build a New Pound, to be two rods wide within side, and to be built stones, to be set by James Coollidges Land on the meeting house common, the great white oke tree to be at the west corner."

1751, Sept. 10—"Granted six shillings to purchass a Book for the towns use to record births and Deaths in."

1756, Oct. 5—"Granted ye sum of 10-0-0 towards the maintaining the french family sent into the town by the Government . . . "

1758, Mar. 6—"Granted 13£ 6s 8d "to Recrute the Town Stock of Ammunition."

Granted to the Selectmen that ware at Expence of Geting of a fine for the Town's not sending a Representative the Last year. 13s 4d."

1760, Aug. 26—"In obedience to an order and Direction of a Committee of the Hon'l the Gen'l Court . . . We, the Selectmen of Sherborn, Holliston and Hopkinton, have met and have made an equal Division of the Family of French Neutrals Residing in sd Holliston to the acceptance of all concerned and by said Division the Persons of said Family Belonging to Sherborn are Joseph Degau, and Mary and Monique His Children; those Belonging to Holliston are Issedore Gordeau and Maddelin his wife and Joseph Gordeau their child. Those belonging to Hopkinton are Anne and Elizabeth Degau and Margaret Gordeau," &c.

Oct. 27—Voted "to take The Three French as the Selectmen divided them and . . . take care of them this winter.

"Jos. Lealand who Brought Solomon Walker & Family into ye Town Hath not given notice as the Law directs."

"Solomon Walker is warned out."

1762, Oct 19—"Granted . . . to pay ye fine and Costs of ye Presentment for not Having a gramer school in town."

1764, Feb. 6—Voted "to pay for Mrs. Lydia Twitchels Keeping School and entertainment at ye South end, dirty medo, Chesnut Brook and the Farm in ye year past 4-13-3-3. to pay for Mrs. Julet Ellice Keeping school and entertainment at that part of the Town called ye plain, 1-14-8-1."

1766—Voted "to give Mr. Thomas Sawin liberty to dig and make a water corse across the Farm Road near duck pond so called, If he make the Road good, so that the Town Never be put to any charge . . . thereby."

Sept. 2—Voted "to Leave the afair to our Representative to act as he shall see cause Relating to the Province making good damages done to the Lieut. Governor and others in the time of the disturbances about the stamp act."

May 30th—"Patrick Shay with his children warned out of Town. Had bin in Town Seven months came from Hopkinton."

1770, Mar. 5—"Voted and Granted Liberty to Jonathan Holbrook to Build a dam across the Brook in the Road near His House if He doth not damnifie the Road and watring."

"Granted to Jonas Greenwood for mending ye Pound and Stocks, 0-3-0-0."

"Voted that Capt. Sanger Build a new stone pound 6 feet high, 3 feet thick at the Bottom, and 18 Inches thick at the top, and face the Inside, and He to have 6£, If he finish it within one month from this time."

July 9—"Then the Town voted to Culler or paint the Clabords on the outside the meeting house an oring culler." Other inside repairs also voted, "All to be done Hansomly and fashonably, and workmanlike."

1773, Mar. 1—Voted "that the Town Clark Return a Copy of the Votes and Resolves of the Town to the Committee of Correspondence of Boston."

1774, June 20—"Then was voted to choose a Committee of Correspondence."

1775, Jan. 9—Voted, bounties on raising of sheep and flax.

[For votes during the Revolutionary period see paper on Revolutionary Soldiers.]

1776, Aug. 26—Voted that "The Selectmen have Liberty to Set up a Hospital for the Inoculation of the Small Pox if they can get Liberty from the Court."

Voted and granted 6s to Jonas Greenwood for Procuring a fife for Capt. Aaron Gardner's Co."

"Also 6s to said Greenwood for Numbering the People."

Dec. 16—Voted to purchase provisions for the town,—pork and salt.

1777, June 2—"Chose Col. Sam'l Bullard agreeable to an Act of General Court of this State to give information of the Enemical Disposition of any Persons against this or any of the United States of America."

Aug. 25—Voted "that the Selectmen purchase Ten Tin Kettles for the use of the militia if they are call'd to march."

Nov. 12—Voted that "Mr. Joseph Ware make a Division of Eighty-Five Bushels of salt that belongs to the Town, agreeable to the last year's Rate and Deliver same to the Inhabitants."

Dec. 29—Voted that "The Selectmen sell the Salt at the best Lay they can."

1778, Jan. 26—Voted "to procure some cloathing for our Soldiers in the Continental Army." Also "to procure a Person at the Best Lay they can to carry sd Cloathing to our Soldiers, and that he set out by Wednesday the 4 Day of Feb'y next."

Mch.—Granted 145£ 1s 6d to the "Com. who procured Cloathing for the Soldiers and for Transportation of same."

Apr. 20—A Com. of nine men was appointed "to take into consideration the [proposed] Constitution or Form of Government." Meeting adjourned to June 1 "when by vote it appeared there was 45 against said Constitution and 5 that was for it."

Voted that "Daniel Whitney, Esq. sell the Two Field pieces."

Nov. 19—Voted "to keep two of the Firearms that belong to the Town for their use, and sell the Remainder to the Inhabitants at publick vendue . . . at Capt. Samuel Sanger's on the last Monday of Nov. at 1 of the clock in the afternoon."

1781, July 16—Voted "100£ in hard money to enable the Committee to hire men for the Publick Service" . . . that they "be Directed to Procure the men Required of this Town on the Best terms they can, . . . and if they want money advanced to them before they march to Draw money out of the Town Treasury if the state of said Treasury will admit of it, otherways to Borrow money on the credit of the Town."

"—That a committee Procure the Beef Requested by the General Court from the Town, and Deliver it to the agent."

Nov. 22—Voted to divide the Town "into three classes as near equal as may be, Reckoning Polls and Estates" each to be assessed for and procure one man for the army.

Voted to choose a Com. "of three Persons to Apply to the General Court to have the fine abated that was laid on the Town for being Deficient two men for the Continental army."

1782, Mar. 4—Onesimus Cole chosen Culler of Shingles, Hoops and Staves.”
May 13—Sundry grants “for procuring horses and cloathing in 1780.”
Aug. 4—Voted “that the Circular Letter and other public papers Setting fourth the Necessity of the immediate Support of the Army Be publickly read Before the Town next Sunday after Divine Service.”

1783, Mar. 3—“Granted to Jonathan Morse Sixteen pounds five Shillings and Six pence for Boarding Mary Green thirty-seven weeks to Feb. 26, 1783, and for one new Checked Apron, and Extraordinary Attendance when Sick.”
May 30—Instructions to Daniel Whitney, Representative.
Preamble “In the first place we Instruct you to use your greatest Influence and Endeavors to prevent all those persons of the Denomination of Tories who are Described by the Law of this Commonwealth as Conspirators and Absentees from ever returning to dwell among us, or enjoying their justly forfeited Estates or any of the Blessings of the peace which we have obtained with the Loss of so much Blood and treasure, and you are to Oppose every measure that may be taken by the Court to restore . . . any part of their late forfeited Estates, or any favour of that Name or Nature so ever”— &c.
Aug. 27—Voted “that the Com. chosen to purchase a Burying Cloth be Directed to purchase one of Cotton Velvet with tthe Necessary appendages.”

1785, Mar. 7—Voted “to accept the Land offered by Joseph Perry, Esq., for the privilege of a Burying place.”
Dec. 19—Voted “that the Overseers put out the poor of the Town to Board to those that will keep them Cheapest and that they Sett them up at public Vendue to the Lowest bidder.”
Granted “to Mallichi Babcock 9s for his horse to carry the School master to Brimfield.”

1786, Apr. 3—Voted “to Choose a Committee to see if there can be any Convenient house provided for the Reception of the poor, or whether it would be best for the Town to build a house for that purpose.”

1787, Mar. 21—Voted “that the Town Meetings be warned in the future by the Constable posting a notification of the Articles at the front door on the public meeting house, and a note on the west door Signed by the Constables.”
Nov. 30—Daniel Whitney chosen “delegate to Represent the Town in a Convention to be holden in Boston . . . for the purpose of Approving or disapproving the Constitution or frame of Government for the United States of America.”
Vote of Instruction given.

1790, April 5—Voted “to accept of the piece of Land offered by Mr. Joseph Daniels for a burial ground.”
Granted “a bounty of one Shilling per head for every Crow that shall be killed within the limits of the town for one year” from this date.

1792, Aug.—Voted the Com. for building the Bellfry put up a Lightning Rod.
Sept. 10—Voted that “Liberty be given Dr. Jona Tay for innoculating for small pox at the House of Mr. John Whitney, also to Dr. Tapley Wyeth to innoculate at Hezekiah Morse, James Holbrook, and Moses Perry, Jr.”
“ . . . Liberty be given to innoculate untill 15 Day of Oct. next and no longer.”

1793, Dec. 2—Voted “to accept of the Bell on Terms proposed by the Subscribers; that Mr. Tho. Holbrook be Sexton and ring the Bell as the Selectmen give direction.”

1795, Oct. 26—Voted “The Selectmen be a Com. to put up as many Guide Posts on the Roads in Town as they shall find to be necessary, according to an Act of Court.”

1797, May 1—Chose a Com. of 5 men to serve “on a Committee appointed by the General Court to view the Road from Boston to Conn. to find out the Shortest and

Best way for a post Road." "Capt. Sam'l Sanger to make Provision to Entertain said Committee."

1800, Aug. 25—Voted "to build a Powder House"; to look out a suitable place and make calculation of the probable expense."

1801, Oct. 19—Voted "to have the Town's Stock of Ammunition moved from the Meeting House to the Powder House; and have a Keeper of the Powder House."

Voted "that any Person that shall suffer a goose or geese to run at large on the highways . . . after the first day of Mar. next shall be liable to pay a fine of 17 cents for each goose."

1803, Apr. 4—Voted "to have a singing master the coming winter."

1808, May—Voted "to procure a Hearse and erect a house to cover same, to be placed on the Common."

1811, Nov. 11—Committee to examine the Pall report that "in their Opinion it was advisable to have it coloured again."

1818, May 4—Voted "to purchase 2 Bathing troughs, one for adults, the other for children, also 3 Bed pans, and to deposit these with Dr. John Wise."

1823—Voted "to allow to a man 8 cents an hour and the same for a Team" for work on the roads.

1833—Voted to pay Dr. Everett for his services in bringing to justice Chas. Ellis who attempted to poison the family of Benj. Holbrook.

1836—Town purchased the Old Academy for a Town Hall.

1838—Voted to purchase "an Alleviator" to be kept by Dr. Everett.

1839—Town to number the school districts.

School committee "recommend the parents not to send children to winter school under four years of age."

1843—Voted that "the School Committees Report be read in both Meeting Houses in Town on some public occasion."

1852—Voted "to request the Legislature to grant the petition of Amos Clark and others relating to the spelling of the name of the town." Changed from Sherburne to Sherborn.

Voted to sell the old hearse and purchase a horse-shed for a hearse-house.

1855—Voted to grant liberty to Messrs. Becker & Bullen to move the mile stone not exceeding 6 ft. towards A. Becker's store. [This was the 22 m. stone.]

Voted 12c an hr. for a man and same for a team [on the highways].

1857—Town purchased the Geo. Hooker farm for an almshouse.

1860—Public Library established.

[There are many interesting war meetings too long to include.]

1862, Aug. 5—"Hon. Henry Wilson addressed the meeting on the War."

1873—Voted to stock Farm Lake with black bass.

1879—Voted 15c per hr. for labor on highways.

1887—Voted to purchase the Old South Burial Ground.

Voted to accept the Farm Burying Ground as offered by H. L. Morse, Adm. of L. T. Morse.

1888—Voted to assume control of all cemeteries.

1890—Vote taken in regard to setting off 575 A. to Framingham.

1894—Voted to unite with other towns in securing a Supt. of Schools.

Voted to purchase the Curtis Coolidge place for an almshouse.

1896—Voted to purchase land on Farm Lake for a park.

1908—Voted to build a new Grade School.

1911—Electric lights installed in Town Hall.

1912—Markers placed on graves of Rev. Soldiers.

1917—Com. on Public Safety appointed.

1924—Referendum on acceptance of the Act of the Legislature to set off 595 A. of No. Sherborn to Framingham voted in the affirmative.

FACTS GATHERED FROM OTHER SOURCES WHICH SUPPLEMENT THE EXTRACTS FROM TOWN RECORDS

The land between the Concord and Charles Rivers and a line from Saxonville to So. Natick, across the center of which our original township extended, embracing the towns of Sherborn, Medway, Millis, Holliston, Hopkinton, a large portion of Bellingham, Milford, Ashland, Framingham and Natick, was occupied by the Nipmuck Indians. All Indian deeds to tracts of this country were signed by members of that tribe except a quit-claim deed to Medfield by Josias, a grandson of Chickatawbut, who in 1621 lived on the Neponset River and was a subject of Massasoit.

The Nipmucks seem to have been independent when first reported to the English; but later became allies of Massasoit and both tribes were called the Massachusetts. [Morse.] Exploration of their lands probably began immediately after the establishment of the Mass. Bay Colony.

1631—Winthrop ascended Prospect Hill, Waltham, and “saw the whole Nipmuck country.” This was sometimes called Nipnox.

1638—21st of ye seventh month, John Rogers and John Fayerbanke appointed “to goe upon ye discovery of Charles River with such men as shall be by ye courts appointed, call them upon ye second day of ye next week.” [Dedham Records.]

1643—This region was so well known that settlement was encouraged by grants to individuals, and the following occur on the records of the General Court:

1643—to John Allen, of Dedham, 200 acres, now in Millis.

1649—to Capt. Robert Kayne, of Boston, 1074 acres, now in So. Sherborn.

to Richard Brown, of Watertown, 200 acres, now in So. Sherborn.

to Richard Parker, of Boston, 435 acres, now in So. Sherborn.

confirmed to Richard Parker, 100 acres.

About this time, to some one, 500 acres, now Sewall’s Meadow.

1656—Simon Bradstreet, 800 acres, E. and N. of Farm Lake.

1658—Thomas Holbrook, 50 acres, on Chas. R., “the Neck.”

William Colburne, 300 acres, So. of Farm Bridge.

1659—Capt. Eleazer Lusher, 200 acres, now Holliston.

Dean Winthrop, son of Gov. Winthrop, and to Francis Vernon, 700 acres, now Holliston.

1662—Col. Wm. Brown (or Crown), 500 acres, now Ashland.

1664—Lt. John Fisher, 300 acres, now Sh. and E. Holl.

Edward Tynge, 250 acres.

John Parker, 150 acres, now Holliston.

Other grants were also made prior to 1674. The Grantees sold to actual settlers, who by a joint deed, dated 1682, extinguished any claims the Indians had except the right to fish and fowl upon the ponds or rivers. This deed was signed by Waban, John Awasamog, Peter Ephraim, Piambowhow, John Magus, Andrew Pittimee, Great John. The first settlers of “Boggestow Farms” were:

1652—Nicholas Wood of Dorchester.
Thomas Holbrook of Dorchester.
Henry Leland of Dorchester.

1657—Daniel Morse of Medfield.

1658—John Hill of Dorchester.
Thomas Breck of Dorchester.
Benjamin Bullard of Dedham.
George Fayerbanke of Dedham.

1660—Thomas Bass.
All the above, except Fayerbank, settled on land now in Sherborn, and probably all were buried in the old burying ground near Dearth's bridge.

1655—First white child born in Sherborn, Mehetabel, daughter of Nicholas Wood.

1658—Stone house or fort built by the settlers north of Boggestow pond as a refuge from Indians.

1660—One of the twelve law books allotted to Medfield placed with George Fayerbank for use of the inhabitants on west side of the river.

1678—First stone wall built on the Leland homestead by Bullen and H. Leland.
“Edward's Plain” named for Edward West.

1675—Sixty persons of Medfield and Boggestow Farms subscribe to the new Brick College [Harvard].

1676, Feb. 21—Medfield attacked by Indians under King Philip at daybreak, one half the houses burned, and seventeen persons killed. The savages then retired across the bridge, which they burned, and held a feast on what was later the Moses Adams farm in Millis. Jonathan Wood, son of Nicholas, was killed by Indians near Death's bridge. Five dwellings on the west side of the river were burned.

Feb. 22—The Indians made an attack on the stone fort at Boggestow pond and were repulsed. This house then sheltered six families from Sherborn and six from Medway, Sixty-eight souls in all.

May 6—Indians again attacked the stone fort or garrison, using a cart of burning flax with the hope of firing it, but were repulsed.

July 2—a band of Indians were driven away from “the farms.”

1676-7, Feb. 1—The house of Thomas Eames was burned by Indians, his wife and several children were murdered and others taken captive. A stone marks the spot at Montwait, Framingham. This was then Sherborn. Peter Ephraim's wife was ordered to appear before the magistrates in regard to this affair. The Indians of the Hopkinton-Ashland region were known as Megunkougs. A part of their lands were included in Sherborn. Several of them were present at the Eames massacre.

1682—There were 50 soldiers in Sherborn.
Geo. Fairbanke, one of the earliest settlers, drowned while crossing Charles River. The road from So. Natick now Eliot, Everett and Main Sts. was laid out by Edward West, John Coller, John Livermore, Sam'l Howe and Obadiah Morse. Over this road at a later date stages passed daily between Boston and Hartford.

1689—First interment in Central Cemetery.

1725—Father Râle's War, Muster Roll, Capt. Isaac Clark's Co. of Troopers out from Aug. 22 to Sept. 18, gives the names of Joseph Ware, Corp., Eben Leland, Corp., Eleaz'r Ryder, Corp., Samuel Williams, Joseph Leland, Asa Morse, Edward Learned, Isaac Leland, George Fairbanks, Joseph Morse, Jona. Fairbanks, David Morse, and Jona. Dewing from Sherborn.

1728—A pewter tankard inscribed “The gift of the Town of Sherborn to the Church in Holliston, a Memorial of Friendship, Anno. Dom. 1728,” with baptismal urn, &c., a communion service, presented to Holliston. This was used for nearly a century before

it was consigned to an attic. All except the tankard have disappeared. This found its way into the hands of a tin peddler, but came at last into the possession of Mr. J. M. Batchelder of Holliston.

1745—A pewter flagon inscribed “The gift of Mrs. Dorothy Ware, late of Sherborn to the Church in Holliston, 1745,” is now in possession of the Worcester Hist. So.

“The last moose attempted to be captured in Sherborn by Richard Sanger and negro.”

1754—The year of the “Memorable Mortality.” Some sort of sickness prevailed through Jan., Feb., Mar., and Apr., from which between 20 and 30 died in Sherborn and 53 in Holliston.

1786—Shay’s Rebellion took place. John Ware and others were called out for the State.

1789—Geo. Washington passed through the town on his way to Hartford, stopping at Capt. Sam'l Sanger’s tavern for rest and “entertainment.” This was his last day in Mass. on that tour of New Eng. which he made “to learn the temper and disposition of the inhabitants toward the new government.”

1793—Abner Morse, historian of Sherborn and Holliston, born.

1815—Great Gale.

1816—Benevolent and Reading Society formed.

1825—First Academy built by issuing and sale of stock.

1820—Part of Sherborn annexed to Natick.

1830—New Churches of First and Second Parishes dedicated.

1835—Boston and Worcester R. R. built. A stage-coach from Medway through Sherborn connected with trains at Natick. Nelson Coolidge was one of the drivers of this coach.

1836—Town purchased the old Academy of the proprietors, and it was used as the Town Hall.

1847—Framingham and Milford Branch of the B. & A. R. R. built.

Leland monument dedicated. Large tent put up on “Edward’s Plain” for entertainment of guests.

1848—First train run through to Milford.

Gold discovered in Cal. Five Sherborn men went out in Jan. of '49 to seek fortune, going by way of the Isthmus, across which they had to walk. One of their number died there.

1853—Reuben Cozzens murdered in West Sherborn, Sept. 14.

1858—Town Hall dedicated.

1869-70—Framingham and Mansfield R. R. built. First train to Sherborn 1869.

1874—Sawin Academy dedicated.

1875—Gen. U. S. Grant visited Concord for their celebration. Transportation facilities were limited, crowds great, and several remember riding on the tops of R. R. cars.

1877—Women’s Reformatory occupied.

1882—Steamboat placed on Farm Lake. Later there were two.

1905—Sherborn sent greetings to Sherborne, Eng., on the occasion of her 1200th anniversary.

1906—First automobile taxed in Sherborn.

1911—Sherborn Historical Society organized. Incorporated 1913.

First electric lights installed in homes of Chas. Green, Albert Barber, and C. Arthur Dowse.

1915—Boulder in Old South Cemetery dedicated.

Almshouse sold for a Catholic Chapel.





FOR REFERENCE

Do Not Take From This Room

Copy 1

